



## Local woman anguishes over cousin kidnapped in Iraq

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

Worrying about the safety of family members living in Baghdad, Iraq, since war gripped the country is nothing new for the Rev. Namiqa Shipman, whose father was born and raised in the Middle-Eastern city.

However, worry turned to reality more than a week ago, as Shipman learned her 48-year-old

cousin, Waleed Mekki Al-Shukri, had been kidnapped and was being held for ransom.

"Our family in Baghdad contacted my father, who is a naturalized citizen of the U.S.," said Shipman. "When he told me about the kidnapping I was completely shocked. We're not sure who is responsible. Our family is Sunni, so we're not sure if it's Shiite militia or just street thugs. We can't imagine where these kidnapers would think

our family could come up with that kind of money."

Though Shipman, who is the Big Spring district superintendent for the United Methodist Church, and Al-Shukri have never met face to face, the local woman said they have developed a very special relationship over the years.

"We're the same age, and when we were children our par-

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Rev. Namiqa Shipman, Big Spring District Superintendent for the United Methodist Church, shows a necklace given to her by her Iraqi cousin, Waleed Mekki Al-Shukri, who was kidnapped in Baghdad more than a week ago.

HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

## Candidate filing yet to heat up

By **STEVE REAGAN**  
Staff Writer

There has been no great rush of candidate filings for local school board elections.

Only two of five area school districts holding trustee elections in May reported any candidate filings as of Tuesday afternoon.

Big Spring, Coahoma, Forsan, Stanton and Sands school districts will hold school board elections May 12. Glasscock County and Grady districts will hold their trustee elections in November.

Incumbents Ricky Robertson and Phil Furqueron are the only candidates to date to file for the Big Spring ISD trustee election.

Seats currently held by Robertson (District 6), Mike Dawson (District 5) and Furqueron (District 7) are up for election in BSISD this May. All three positions are for three years.

At-large seats currently held by Allen McDowell and Tom Bill Kuykendall are up for election in Forsan ISD this May. Both incumbents have filed for re-election, officials said.

No other candidate filings were reported as of Tuesday afternoon.

Other school board races to be decided in May include:

- Coahoma ISD — Two

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## THINKING OF YOU, SWEETHEART



Faye's Florist employee Becky Blackshear busies herself with a Valentine's Day floral arrangement at the store Tuesday. Store officials predicted that today would be one of the busiest of the year.

HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

## City OKs issuing of bonds

Tax rate to climb from 71 cents to \$1.01

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

The Big Spring City Council approved sale of its general bonds and certificates of obligation Tuesday night, moving forward with more than \$15 million in repairs and improvements within the municipality.

The council voted 6-1, with Councilman Greg Biddison the lone dissenter, in favor of issuing the bonds, which have been designated for several projects including street repairs, construction of a sports complex and a new animal shelter annex, and repairs to the Northside Elevated Reservoir.

"It's an exciting time because we're

See **CITY**, Page 3A

## Knox says she won't seek re-election

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

After more than nine years on the Big Spring City Council, Joann Knox said Tuesday night she will be calling it quits in May.

Knox announced she will not seek re-election in May, when her seat on the council — along with the mayoral seat — will be up.

"This decision has been several months in the making," Knox told the council. "It's not a decision that came to me easily. In

light of recent actions of citizen groups I became torn about making a final decision, but in the end, my choice is still based on personal evaluation and not negative evaluations of my actions as a member of the city council."

Knox, along with Mayor Russ McEwen and fellow council members Stephanie Horton, Jo Ann Staulcup and Gloria McDonald, was a target of a recent recall petition effort.

The petition, which charged that the council "circumvented the will of the majority of elec-

tors" in passing a law banning smoking in public places in November, failed to collect enough signatures to recall any of the council position, but did succeed in forcing a recall election for McEwen.

Knox said firmly that the recall effort had no bearing on her decision not to run for re-election.

"Nine years of service has made me proud to be a citizen of Big Spring," said Knox. "I look forward to serving my community as needed in the future."

Also during the meeting, the

"Nine years of service has made me proud to be a citizen of Big Spring. I look forward to serving my community as needed in the future."



Knox

council:

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Please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call (432) 263-7335 before 7 p.m. weekdays and noon Sunday.

**WANNA GET AWAY?**

SOUTHBURY, Conn. (AP) — A man's plans to bail himself out after a drug bust went more than a bit awry over the weekend.

With the aid of a drug-sniffing dog, police found 48 grams of cocaine on the 32-year-old man after pulling him over for speeding, police said.

The suspect then arranged for his aunt to bring a small safe which he claimed contained money for his bail. But when his aunt opened the safe in front of a state trooper, they found cash, drug paraphernalia and another 16 grams of cocaine, police said. Additional charges were filed and bond was increased to \$125,000.

**'I BARELY ESCAPED, HONEST'**

SAN RAFAEL, California (AP) — A man who allegedly faked his own kidnapping to keep his wife from finding out he crashed her new car could face criminal charges.

Police said the 35-year-old man told them two kidnapers held him up at gunpoint at a San Rafael bar Saturday and ordered him to drive to Santa Rosa, where he purposely crashed the car into a wall to escape.

Under questioning Monday, he admitted to investigators he made the story up.

The man was actually heading to a casino when he accidentally crashed his wife's 2007 Ford and was worried about how she would react, police said.

**SYMPHONY TICKETS ON SALE**

Tickets are on sale for Saturday's "The Music of Europe" performance of the Big Spring Symphony at Municipal Auditorium.

Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for senior citizens and \$5 for students, and are available at the Big Spring Herald, Blum's Jewelers, Chamber of Commerce, Faye's Flowers, First Bank of West Texas, Heritage Museum and at the door.

The concert will begin at 8 p.m. and will present a variety of the most beloved musical classics by European and Scandinavian composers. Guest artist will be Dr. Kirsten Yon, assistant professor of violin at Texas Tech University.

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Obituaries

Donald E. Spence



Donald E. Spence, 76, of Big Spring, died Monday, Feb. 12, 2007, at his residence. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 15, 2007, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. David Harp, pastor of First Baptist Church of Stanton, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

He was born Dec. 31, 1930, in Little York, Ill., to Lewis Henry Spence and Ines Gordon Spence. He married Nellie Garrett on Aug. 5, 1955, in Wabash, Ind.

Don served in the United States Air Force from 1950-1973. He had been a loan officer at Big Spring Education Employees Federal Credit Union for a number of years. He was active for more than 30 years in the Big Spring Umpires Association and in the summer youth baseball programs as a coach and manager with a team winning the state championship in 1977. He had also lived in Timbron, N.M., where he was active in the volunteer fire department and the Timbron Chapel. He greatly loved his family and his God. He was a Baptist.

Survivors include his wife, Nellie Spence of Big Spring; two sons, David L. Spence of Chandler, Ariz., and Paul E. Spence and wife Beth of Big Spring; one sister, Wanda Tomlinson of Indianapolis, Ind.; one brother-in-law, Bob King and wife Sue of Wabash, Ind.; three granddaughters, Charis Spence Myers and husband Chad of Coolidge, Ariz., Kayla B. Spence and Laura N. Spence, both of Big Spring; one grandson, Joshua D. Spence of Chandler, Ariz.; one great granddaughter, Caylee McKenzie Myers of Coolidge, Ariz.; and seven nephews and four nieces.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two sisters, Anita Slusher and Norma King.

The family suggests memorials be made to Home Hospice, 111 E. 7th, Suite A, Big Spring 79720.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwelch.com

Paid obituary

Christine 'Christina' Heredia



Christine "Christina" Heredia, 64, of Odessa passed away Feb. 9, 2007, at Odessa Regional Hospital. She was born Jan. 27, 1943, in Big Spring to parents Frank Mendoza and Louisa Santiago.

Mrs. Heredia was a barber and owner of Jaime's Barber Shop. She was a Catholic.

She is survived by her special friend of 12 years, Saul R. Carrillo of Odessa; daughter, Jaime Lynn Hernandez and husband, Gabriel of Odessa; brothers, Frank Mendoza, David Mendoza, Richard Mendoza and Robert Mendoza, all of Midland, Raymond Mendoza of Oregon and Albert Mendoza of Tulsa, Okla.; sisters, Elvira Hammond of Owego, N.Y., and Louisa Navarette of Midland; and three grandchildren, John A. Chavez, Jasmine Johnson and Jackie Johnson Jr., all of Odessa.

The family would like to thank everyone who donated towards her medical and funeral expenses. God bless you all.

Visitation for Mrs. Heredia was Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2007, from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. with a rosary being said at 7 p.m. at the funeral home. Funeral services will be held Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2007, at 10 a.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church with Father Joe Uecker officiating. Burial will follow at Rose Hill Cemetery. Arrangements are under the direction of Martinez-Smith Funeral Chapels & Crematory.

Paid obituary

Take Note

• **NORTH BIRDWELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** Angelfood Ministry pickup date is Saturday, Feb. 24, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 2702 N. Birdwell. Doors close at 1 p.m. and all orders not picked up will be donated.

• **BIG SPRING SYMPHONY CHORUS REHEARSALS BEGIN** at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 20, at the first United Methodist Church upstairs choral rehearsal room. The rehearsals are for the April 21 concert and will feature spiritual music and Mozart.

• **BIG SPRING HIGH SCHOOL WILL BE OFFERING THE EXIT LEVEL TAKS RETEST**, Feb. 20-23. Please report to the high school library at 8 a.m. Bring a picture I.D. February 20, ELA (English Language Arts); Feb. 21, Math; Feb. 22, Science; Feb. 23, Social Studies. For more information, call 264-3641, ext. 133.

• **THE 5TH ANNUAL RELAY RASCAL RAZZMATAZZ** will be held at 10 a.m. Feb. 24, in the Big Spring Municipal Auditorium. Entry forms are available at KBST and the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. Entry deadline is Feb. 20.

• **MY WAY, A MUSICAL TRIBUTE TO FRANK SINATRA**, will be held at Howard College's Hall Center for the Arts at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 25, 7:30 p.m. Feb. 26-27 and 7:30 p.m. March 5-7.

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Maria Elena 'Cookie' Larez



Maria Elena "Cookie" Larez, 53, died Monday, Feb. 12, 2007, in a Midland hospital. A vigil service will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 15, 2007, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, Feb. 16, 2007, at St. Thomas Catholic Church. Interment will follow at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

She was born Nov. 6, 1953, in Stanton. She was a lifetime resident of Big Spring and a member of St. Thomas Catholic Church.

Survivors include her son and daughter-in-law, Jesse and Kim Rios of Big Spring; her daughter, Elizabeth Larez of Big Spring; four grandchildren; her mother, Esperanza "Hope" Rios of Odessa; her sister and brother-in-law, Irene and Joseph Lopez of Abilene; her brother and sister-in-law, Albert and Corina Barrera of Odessa; and two nieces and two nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Rosendo Larez, and her father, Eleno Barrera Sr.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwelch.com

Barbara Ann Smallwood

Barbara Ann Smallwood, 38, of Big Spring, died Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2007, at her residence. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Fern Alexander

Fern Alexander, 89, of Big Spring, died Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2007, in a local hospital. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Mary DeLaRosa

Mary DeLaRosa, 62, of San Antonio, formerly of Big Spring died Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2007, in San Antonio. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 7 a.m. Tuesday and 7 a.m. today:

- **WILLIAM JOHN GROSS**, 41, of Lubbock, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of theft.
- **GEORGE KOSTELAZ**, 47, of 411 Edwards, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **JESSE R. HORTON**, 23, of 1703 Aylesford, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- **JOEL PEREZ**, 26, address unknown, was arrested Wednesday on charges of evading arrest or detention and failure to identify.
- **PHILIP MARTINEZ**, 18, of 1300 Dixie, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.
- **THEFT** was reported:
  - in the 1500 block of FM 700.
  - in the 1000 block of Birdwell Lane.
  - in the 100 block of Gregg Street.
- **POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA - TWO OUNCES OR LESS** was reported in the 600 block of Gregg Street.
- **BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE** was reported in the 1300 block of Park.
- **BURGLARY OF A COIN OPERATED MACHINE** was reported in the 4100 block of FM 700.
- **BURGLARY OF A BUILDING** was reported in the 4100 block of FM 700.
- **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported:
  - in the 1600 block of Robin.
  - in the 400 block of Edwards.
  - in the 4200 block of Muir.
- **ASSAULT WITH INTENT TO CAUSE BODILY INJURY** was reported in the 400 block of Fourth Street.

Sheriff's report

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity:

Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 45 inmates at the time of this report.

- **MATT CASEY EDWARDS**, 22, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for driving while license invalid.
- **TIMOTHY JAY CRAWFORD**, 25, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of failure to appear - motion for enforcement and a motion to revoke probation for driving while license suspended.
- **ANDREA OYLER**, 28, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid.

Valentine's Day  
**K.C. Steaks & Seafood**  
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*She Deserves The Best*  
5:00 pm - 10:00 pm  
North Service Rd. I-20 West  
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Bulletin Board

If you have items for the Bulletin board, contact the Herald news room at 263-7331 or email editor@bigspringherald.com

**TODAY**  
• Eagles Lodge Ladies Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third.

**THURSDAY**  
• Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.  
• Coffee Club meets at 10 a.m. in Gale's Sweet Shoppe.  
• Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Call 267-6479.  
• Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Association meets at 5:30 p.m. in the RSVP office at 501 Rannels.  
• American Legion Post 506 meets at 6 p.m. Call 263-2084 for more information.  
• Rackley-Swords 379, Vietnam Veterans of America meets at 7 p.m. in the Sparenburg Building, 309 S. Main St.  
• Big Spring Masonic Lodge No. 1340 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2101 Lancaster.

**FRIDAY**  
• Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until about 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.  
• AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.  
• Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.  
• Spring City Senior Citizens Center country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. featuring Monroe Casey and the Prowlers. All area seniors are invited.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services reported the following activity:

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1900 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 1300 block of Michael. One person was transported to the VAMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1400 block of 14th Street. One person was transported to the VAMC.

Lottery

The jackpot in the multistate Mega Millions lottery drawing grew to \$130 million Wednesday.

None of the tickets sold for Tuesday's \$106 million drawing matched all five lotto numbers and the Mega Ball. The next drawing will be Friday.

The winning numbers from Tuesday's drawing were: 3, 9, 24, 29 and 41. The Mega Ball number was 41.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Tuesday night:  
Winning numbers drawn: 2-4-7-18-36.  
Number matching five of five: none.  
Next Cash 5 drawing: Wednesday night.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 1-1-4

Weather

Tonight...Cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Lows around 20. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

Thursday...Cloudy. A 20 percent chance of snow in the morning. Storm total snow accumulation up to 1 inch. Highs in the upper 30s. North winds around 10 mph in the morning becoming light and variable.

Thursday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 20s. Light and variable winds.

Friday...Mostly sunny. Not as cool. Highs in the lower 60s. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.

Friday night...Mostly clear. Not as cool. Lows in the upper 30s.

Saturday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 50s. Saturday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s.

Sunday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 50s. Sunday night...Mostly cloudy. Lows in the mid 30s.

Presidents day...Mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 50s. Monday night...Mostly cloudy. Lows around 40.

Tuesday...Mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s.

BIG SPRING HERALD

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# Forsan ISD trustees approve calendar for 2007-2008

By STEVE REAGAN  
Staff Writer

FORSAN — In approving a new school calendar, Forsan Independent School District trustees made the best of a tight situation.

Faced with the task of fitting about 180 days of state-mandated classroom instruction into a time frame shorter than normal, trustees approved a calendar for the 2007-2008 school year during their regular monthly meeting Monday.

The new school year will begin Aug. 27 and

end May 29, 2008. In between, there will be fewer holidays for students and staff than FISD officials have normally allocated.

The reason for the tighter schedule is recent school reforms enacted by the Texas Legislature. Among those reforms was a mandate that the local school year start no earlier than the fourth Monday in August and end by early June.

Forsan trustees acquiesced to those mandates in devising the new schedule, but that doesn't mean they were happy

with the situation. "We would still like the state return (the calendar) to local control," said Randy Johnson, superintendent of Forsan schools. "But that's not the case, so we made the best of things."

Next year's school calendar will feature unbalanced semesters. Trustees voted to end the first semester at the Christmas break, which begins Dec. 24. That means, however, that the first semester will be only 81 days, as compared to 96 days for the second semester.

However, because many

days in Spring will be devoted to taking the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) test, there won't be that wide disparity of actual classroom time between the two terms, Johnson said.

Also, there will be fewer holidays. Forsan students will be off one day for Labor Day (Sept. 3), three days for Thanksgiving (Nov. 21 to 23), two weeks for Christmas (Dec. 24 to Jan. 8, 2008) and four days for Spring break (March 17 to 21).

In other business Monday, trustees tabled

**"We would still like the state return (the calendar) to local control. But that's not the case, so we made the best of things."**

Randy Johnson, FISD superintendent



proposed discussion on plans to either renovate or replace the concession stand at the football stadium.

Johnson said officials will further study costs involved in such a project before revisiting the issue at a future board meeting. Renewed and/or

extended contracts for principals, assistant principals, the district technology administrator and counselors.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331, ext. 234, or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com.

## CITY

Continued from Page 1A

going to be doing things that our citizens have said they want to see done," said McEwen. "We're going to take care of four very important projects and be able to move down the road and make some progress for our community."

Voters approved \$9.2 million for street and roadway improvements in November, including much of Main and Scurry streets and parts of Nolan and Johnson near the downtown area. Also included in the scope of the project is landscaped islands on Main Street from Second to 10th streets.

Voters also gave the go-ahead for slightly more than \$5 million to finance improvements and additions to city parks, including recreational and sports facilities. Within the scope of the project is upgrades and expansion of the Roy Anderson Sports Complex, including renovations to existing fields and the addition

of football, soccer and baseball fields.

The council also approved certificates of obligation totaling more than \$1 million — which did not go before the voters in November — to build an annex for the current municipal animal shelter on Midway Road and repairs and paint the Northside Elevated Reservoir.

And while the city was able to secure attractive interest rates for the certificates of obligation at 4.39 percent and general bonds at 4.37 percent, Biddison said the burden it will place on taxpayers is simply too much.

"On the report we received from Standard and Poors, I just don't see how we can continue to raise taxes the way we're going," said Biddison. "I know the people voted for the projects, and it was a tough decision. But I just felt like the majority of the voters weren't well informed about this and the amount of increase it will have on the tax rate. I just couldn't, in all good conscience, vote for it."

The tax rate is going to

go up another 30 cents just to pay for these bonds. We've always compared our tax rates to other communities, and San Angelo was the highest last year and their tax rate was in the mid 80-cent range. And I felt that was high. Now we're going to be at \$1.01 on our tax rate. Sure, we need streets, but I think there's another way to do it besides sending the city and the taxpayers into that much debt."

Councilwoman Stephanie Horton also voiced concerns for the spike in the tax rate, but said she felt obligated to vote in favor of the bonds due to the results of the bond election.

"This is a lot of burden to put on our taxpayers," Horton told the council. "I told you from the beginning I was against it because of the burden. But once you put it to an election and it passes, who am I to go against the citizens? I can't go against it because it passed, but in my heart I feel like this is a lot of burden. That's a lot of money."

A home valued at

\$50,000 would accrue approximately \$355 at the current tax rate of .71 cents per \$100 valuation, while the new tax rate of \$1.01 per \$100 valuation would translate into \$505, comparatively.

"Obviously, that is a very large increase in the tax rate, and it's something that is going to be difficult for some citizens," said McEwen. "But we all have to keep in mind ad valorem taxes are based on the value of the house, so the people living in more expensive houses are going to pay a proportionately greater percentage of these bonds, as will the businesses. Across the board, it's something you're concerned with because you don't ever want to raise taxes. That being said, these bond issues were overwhelmingly supported by the public. So it's something we feel like the citizens are saying they want to do."

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

## KNOX

Continued from Page 1A

• Approved final reading of a resolution authorizing the city manager to execute a contract with Maximus, Inc.

• Approved final reading of a resolution authorizing and directing the mayor to execute a contract with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

for the supply of water to the Big Spring State Park.

• Tabled reading of a resolution authorizing the mayor to execute a lease agreement with Abusaab Companies.

• Approved first reading of a resolution authorizing and directing the mayor to enter into an agreement with TxDOT for the purpose of updating and airport layout plan.

• Approved first reading of an ordinance calling for a general election to be held May 12.

• Approved first reading of a resolution authorizing the mayor to execute an agreement for continuing disclosure services with FSC Disclosure Services, a division of Southwest Company.

• Approved first reading of a resolution authorizing and directing the mayor to execute a contract agreement with Western Container Corp.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

## KIDNAPPED

Continued from Page 1A

ents made us write to one another," Shipman said with a laugh. "Over time, through our letters, we became very close. He even sent me a necklace years ago, and I'm wearing it until he comes home."

Shipman said conditions in Baghdad are getting worse by the day.

"It wasn't like this before the war," said Shipman. "You didn't worry about kidnappings and things like this years ago. However, as the country continues to devolve into chaos, it just keeps getting worse."

As hard as it is for Shipman and her family to wait for Al-Shukri to be returned home, the local woman said communications between Iraq and the United States is offering its own brand of uncertainty.

"Since the kidnapping, we haven't been able to get through to our family in Baghdad," said Shipman. "That was almost two weeks ago. I have a cousin there who has a cell phone, but we haven't been able to establish contact."

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

**Happy Valentine's Day To The Sweetest Girlfriend**

**Dennis Teeters**  
Says the Ribs & Brisket Plate are his favorite!

**Al's Bar-B-Q**  
267-8921  
1810 S. Greas

**Happy Valentine's Day To The Sweetest Girlfriend**

Love, Jay

## EXIT LEVEL TAKS

Big Spring High School will be offering the Exit Level TAKS Retest, Feb. 20-23.

Please report to the high school library at 8 a.m. Bring a picture I.D. February 20, ELA (English Language Arts); Feb. 21, Math; Feb. 22, Science; Feb. 23, Social Studies.

For more information, call 264-3641, ext. 133.

## RACES

Continued from Page 1A

at-large seats, currently held by Sissy Franklin and Jim White are to be contested.

• Stanton ISD — Two single-member districts are to be decided. District 1 is currently open, while District 5 is represented

by Terry Shanks. • Sands CISD — At-large seats currently held by Michelle Zant and Stan Blagrave will be decided.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331, ext. 234, or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com.

## MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Roslind Ann Davis, 54, died Monday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Mary DeLaRosa, 62, died Tuesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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- FREEDOM WRITERS (PG-13) 4:30 7:30
- STOMP THE YARD (PG-13) 4:20 7:30
- ARTHUR AND THE INVISIBLES (PG) 4:50
- THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS (PG-13) 7:10

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## NOTICE OF AVAILABLE EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Those eligible to apply for a Sid Richardson Memorial Fund scholarship are direct descendants (children or grandchildren) of persons who qualified for Early Retirement, Normal Retirement, Disability Retirement, or Death Benefits from The Retirement Plan For Employees of Bass Enterprises Production Co.; or are direct descendants (children or grandchildren) of persons presently employed with a minimum of three years' full-time service with any of the following employers: Sid Richardson Carbon & Energy Co. (Sid Richardson Carbon and Gasoline Company or Sid Richardson Carbon Company), SRCE, L.P., Bass Enterprises Production Co., BEPCO, L.P., Bass Brothers Enterprises, Inc., Richardson Oils, Inc., Perry R. Bass, Inc. (Sid W. Richardson, Inc.), Chesholm Trail Ventures, L.P., Sid W. Richardson Foundation, San Jose Cattle Company (Fairview Farms), City Center Development Co., Richardson Aviation, Sid Richardson Carbon, Ltd., SRCG Aviation, Inc., Leap Partners, L.P., Barlett Investments Co., City Club of Ft. Worth (City Center Development Co.), City Center Development Co., L.P. (DBA City Center Development Co. and City Center Executive Suite), Sundance Square, Sundance Square Partners, L.P. (DBA Sundance Square, the Cassidy, and Sundance Square Development), or Sundance Square Management, L.P. (DBA Sundance Square Management Co. and Sundance Square Management).

Further, those eligible to apply also shall consist of children and grandchildren of persons who retired from the following entities on or before 2/28/07: Sid Richardson Energy Services, Ltd. (Sid Richardson Energy Services Co., Sid Richardson Gasoline, Ltd., or Sid Richardson Gasoline Co.) or Richardson Energy Marketing, Ltd. (Richardson Products II, Ltd.).

Limited funds are available to assist in defraying the cost of college education or of vocational training. These scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis according to academic achievement and financial need. Eligible candidates for the 2007-2008 academic year must return completed applications postmarked no later than March 31, 2007.

Direct written request for an application to Peggy Laskoski, Sid Richardson Memorial Fund, 309 Main Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76102 or fax # 817-332-2176 or plaskoski@sidrichardson.org. Include student's name and qualifying employee's name, Social Security number, qualifying company name, and dates of employment.

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# EDITORIAL

*"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."*

FIRST AMENDMENT

Opinions expressed on this page are those of the Editorial Board of the Big Spring Herald unless otherwise indicated.

Ronnie Cupstid  
Publisher

John A. Moseley  
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan  
News Editor

## OUR VIEWS

### Make this a very special holiday

It's Valentine's Day. Just the mention of this holiday devoted to romance conjures up certain images — roses, chocolate, intimate dinners by candlelight, a quiet evening alone letting the one person we love the most know just how special they are to us.

Valentine's Day means different things to different people. It becomes as individual as each of us.

For some, it's a time to go full bore. To spend freely and literally shower the one we love with one lavish gift after another.

Others adopt a more reserved tone. A whispered sentiment. A simple card.

All those varied methods mean the same thing, however.

The message is simple: I love you.

No three words are more warming to the human soul.

Perhaps nothing is more desperately sought by each of us. And certainly, nothing is more difficult to find.

That's because love isn't something you can purchase, regardless of how much you spend.

Love can't be summoned on demand. That's because it's something given freely from the heart.

Love is shared and should be nurtured — not just today, but every day.

Better yet, it should be cherished and cultured every moment.

So, on this Valentine's Day, we hope each of you takes the time to do just that.

Regardless of the manner you choose, let those you love the most know they fill a special place in your heart and your life.

Their lives will be enriched, as will yours.

## YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

To all of our old friends in Big Spring, The Villages in Florida, that you saw on TV with all of the tornado damage is the same Villages where we live now.

There were about 1,500 homes with damage and about 400 totaled, but The Villages is very large and

that was just a small part of it.

We live about three or four miles from the damaged area.

We just wanted to let you know we are safe and had no damage to our home.

BOB AND THELMA PEERCY  
THE VILLAGES, FLA.

## HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions. In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor John A. Moseley at editor@bigspringherald.com or News Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

## LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

## A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

Dear Lord, You are the one who can make everything right.

Amen

# Forced to gamble with hostages

When I first met her in New York five years ago, Ingrid Betancourt was campaigning to be president of Colombia.

She had been a strong critic of the leftist guerrillas who had caused so much bloodshed in her war-torn homeland, and she knew her life would be in danger upon returning there. But that was a risk she was willing to take.

"I'm very conscious of what I'm doing," she told me. "This is something over which one has to be willing to give up one's life for one's country."

And over the last five years, there have been times when many Colombians believed that is precisely what she had done.

Shortly after returning to Colombia, Betancourt was abducted and held hostage by the drug-trafficking rebels of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, Colombia's largest rebel group. And in the last five years, during long periods when nothing was known about her, many assumed she was dead.

That's until a Colombian government official recently told a radio station that, according to intelligence reports, Betancourt is still alive and in good health. The comments ignited a new national debate over whether the government should be stepping up efforts to rescue thousands of Colombians being held captive by Marxist rebels.

While the rebels are demanding the release of their 500 imprisoned comrades in exchange for some 60 prominent hostages, including Betancourt and three kidnapped U.S. defense contractors, Colombian President Alvaro Uribe

has ordered the military to find and rescue the hostages, including 3,000 others being held for ransom. Uribe's own father was killed during a botched FARC kidnapping attempt about 20 years ago.

An American government official recently told reporters that the United States would support a military effort to rescue the three Americans held captive.

"We have a lot of confidence in the government and the security services here in finding a way to free the hostages and we want to work together to achieve this," said Thomas Shannon, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for Western Hemisphere affairs, who was in Bogota to discuss American support for Colombia's five-decade war against cocaine and human trafficking insurgents.

And although the military rescue policy seems to be working, with two hostages managing to escape in separate army-launched attacks on the rebels recently, many of the hostages' relatives are opposed to the rescue offensive.

They fear their loved ones will be killed by the rebels, which has happened in the past during unsuccessful rescue missions.

"What terrifies me is that the government may know where Ingrid is and will launch a rescue mission," Betancourt's mother, Yolanda Pulecio, told The Associated Press.

But what choice does the government have?

Releasing hundreds of ruthless killers is out of the question. And taking no action to save at least some of the hostages seems is also unacceptable, especially since many of these people are held for years in brutal captivity.

"You face death every day," a recently rescued Colombian army captain told reporters. "Someone comes into the shack where you are and you think they are coming for you."

During nearly four years of captivity, Capt. Leonardo Nur actually carved his name and rank into the skin of his arms and legs to ensure he was identified if he was killed and his body was dismembered.

Nur, whose family had assumed he was dead, was found tied to a tree after an army conflict with the National Liberation Army, or ELN, Colombia's second largest rebel group.

A Dec. 31 military attack on a FARC jungle camp enabled the escape of Fernando Araujo, a former Colombian government minister who had been held hostage for six years, including several months bound by a tether to a tree. After he slipped away from his captors, Araujo hid in the wilderness for five days until he was found.

More than 23,000 Colombians have been kidnapped in the last decade and more than 1,200 have died in captivity or during abortive rescue attempts, according to Pais Libre, an advocacy group formed by Colombian Vice President Francisco Santos, who is a former kidnapping victim.

Back in 2002, as Betancourt campaigned in New York among many Colombians who have fled from their homeland fearing rebel kidnappings and terrorist mayhem, she seemed to be very courageous.

But in retrospect, Betancourt's words now seem too naive and idealistic.

"If we are not afraid of death, imprisonment or anything else that can block our progress," she told me, "we are finally going to achieve our dream, which is to have the country we deserve, a new Colombia."

More than 42 million Colombians are still waiting for that dream to be realized.

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BUCK UP, MALIKI,  
YOU CAN DO IT.  
YOU CAN DO  
ANYTHING.



# Ski practice on an I-20 exit ramp

John Rediger owns the drug store in Pecos he bought from his parents years ago. He is in great physical shape and he exercises faithfully in all kinds of weather. He jogs five miles a day.

"I love to get out and jog when it's 20 degrees and the wind is blowing in your face and your eyes have tears in them," he explained. "That pushes my button."

John has a deep passion for skiing, something he started a long time ago.

"I had been out of college a couple of years and my wife and I went up to Ruidoso and it's one of those things that I just fell in love with," he said.

John has been ranked No. 1 in the United States Recreational Skiing Association. He has attended ski workshops in Switzerland.

"We get up and we're on the mountain by 7 a.m. and stay there until noon, then take a break and go back in the afternoon," he said in describing his routine in the

mountains. "Next day we do the same thing all over again. It was quite a treat."

John skis at least 40 days a year now, down from the time when he did 60.

Sports Illustrated and Ski Magazine have done major articles on John. He keeps those issues in a special place at his drug store.

Pecos doesn't get much snow, so John used to practice on roller skates at an Interstate 20 exit ramp. It's near an overpass and has a slight hill to it.

He staggered cans of paint down the ramp to serve as pole markers or gates.

His wife helped him watch for traffic.

One day he went out there by himself because his wife had something to do and couldn't go with him.

"I sat up my paint cans, got out my roller skates, my ski poles and my gloves, which I use just in case I trip and fall," he said in recalling that day.

"I saw a car coming, but it was a long way off. I thought I had time to go through the gates and pick up my paint cans before the car got there. But the car was moving

faster than I anticipated. I turned around and it was right on top of me. I was waving my ski poles and doing everything I could to alert the people in the car. It was an elderly couple and she was driving. She recognized there were some obstacles in her lane, but she swerved and hit that first paint can and chocolate brown paint went all over her wheel well. She stopped and started chewing me royally.

"About all I could say was, 'Yes, ma'am,'" he added. "I was afraid she was going to call the DPS on me. I'd really be in trouble then. She asked, 'What are you doing, young man?'"

"I told her I was practicing skiing and that I skied in competition. She asked me if I had ever been to this or that ski area. I had been to most of them. She said, 'Well, work hard, young man and best of luck to you in your endeavors.' I told her thank you. She drove off and I never said a thing to her about that chocolate paint getting on her car.

"For many years that paint stayed all over the road out there before it finally wore off. I thought I was cooked right there."



MIGUEL PEREZ



TUMBLEWEED SMITH

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ORLANDO, FLA.

# Why not check this out?

The latest purchases and donations received by the Howard County Library

The library will be closed this Saturday and Monday for President's Day. Be sure to come by today or Thursday to get something to read or watch on video/DVD. The weather person says that it should be pretty, but can you really believe them? I want to apologize for not having a column in the paper the week of the 7th. It completely escaped my feeble mind. To make up for it (possibly) here is an extra helping of new books that have come in. Some are new purchases, but quite a few of them are donations from a reader who has gone on to that great book room in the heavens.



HOLLIS McCRIGHT

Here in West Texas, the sky seems to go on forever. Jamie Wilkins and Robert Dunn have compiled an astronomy book, "300 Astronomical Objects: A Visual Reference to the Universe" (522 WIL J). Absolutely beautiful photographs of the Eagle Nebulae, proto stars, galaxies and other celestial objects. This is a neat book to just sit and look at. It is not a large book, but is crammed full of exciting photos

and text. While perhaps not as awe-inspiring as the above book, "The Bush Family: Four Generations of History in Photographs" (B BUS G) by photographer James Spada, may be found in the biography section of the library.

Can't sleep at night and don't want to rely on pills? Take a look at "Harvard Medical Guide to A Good Night's Sleep" (616.849 EPS L) by Dr. Lawrence Epstein. This is an excellent guide on getting a restful nights sleep.

New Large Print books that we have just received and processed include "Exile," by Richard North Patterson; "The Mote in Andrea's Eye," by David Niall Wilson (sort of sci-fi in nature); and Jayne Ann Krentz's "White Lies" (an Arcane Society novel). The fourth in a great series (Women of the Bible) by Francine Rivers is "Unspoken," the story of Bathsheba. Lauraine Spelling always writes a clear, uplifting book and "The Brushstroke Legacy" is no different.

Non-Fiction Large Print titles that have come are "Tips When Remodeling Your Home," (643.7 RES S) by William Resch; "Tips to Building a Retirement Nest Egg," (332.024 MAG L) by Linda M. Magoon; and "Arthritis for Dummies," (616.722 FOX B) by Barry Fox.

Some new mysteries have made their way to the library. Here are just a few new titles that have come in. You can find them in the mystery section. Susannah Stacey's Inspector Bone is back again in a tour of stately homes

intermingled with murder. "Bone Idle" is the title. Clare Curzon is always good for a "cozy" murder; check out "Cat's Cradle." What is seen is not always what it seems. "A Cold Treachery" is just that — Inspector Ian Rutledge is called out in a blinding snowstorm to a horrific scene. When it is discovered that Josh survived,

Rutledge must outwit the killer and the cold to find the boy. Carolyn Hart's books are an acquired taste, and many of her read-

and Scotland. Lady Margaret Dacre leaves the aristocratic life to take control on lands who formerly belonged to a "good man." What chance does she have to survive? Be warned, it is a little hard to read as it does not conform to how novels are written today.

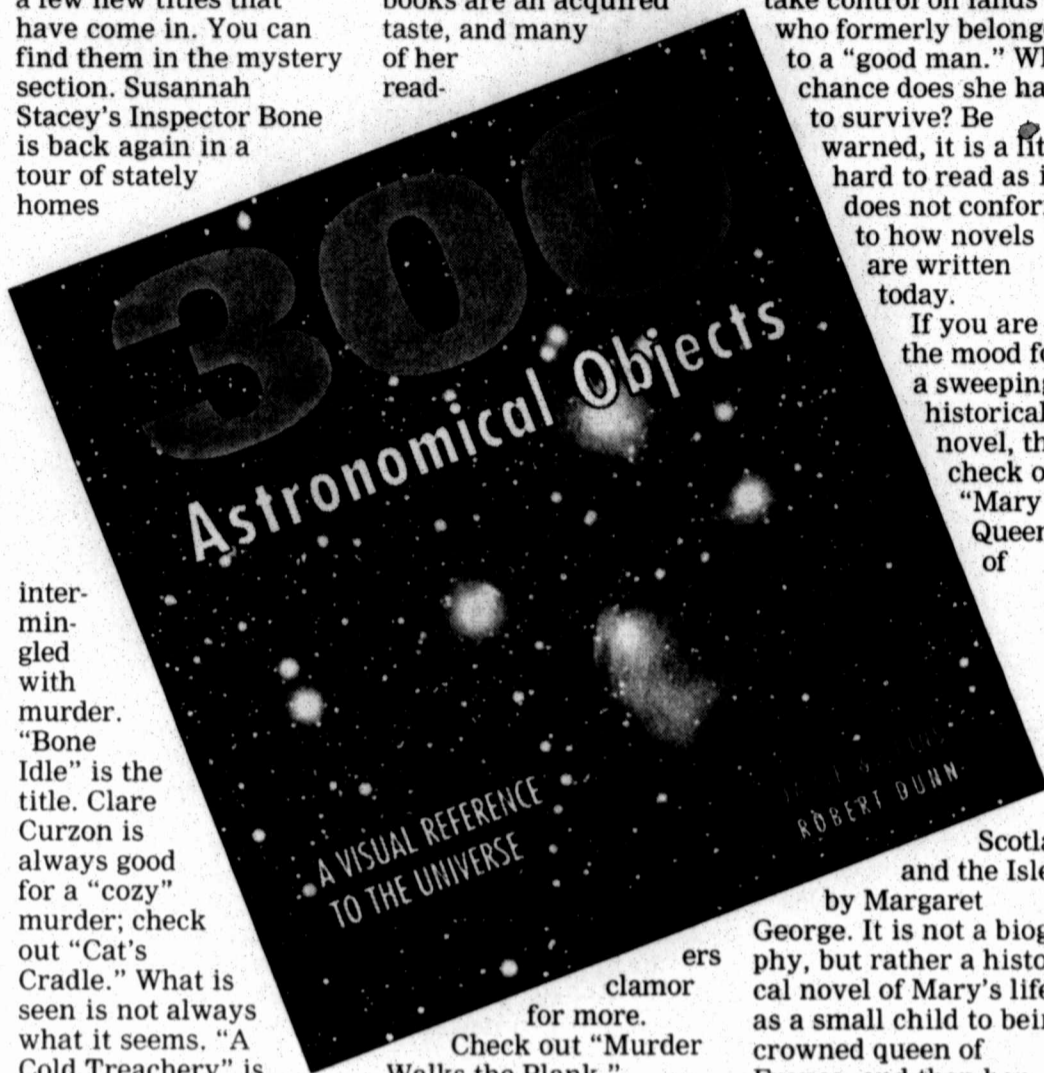
If you are in the mood for a sweeping, historical novel, then check out "Mary Queen of Scotland and the Isles" by Margaret George. It is not a biography, but rather a historical novel of Mary's life as a small child to being crowned queen of France, and then her eventual execution (for treason) by her cousin, Queen Elizabeth.

Cast your mind back to college political science classes and you may

remember Mary Wollstonecraft. She wrote "A Vindication of the Rights of Women" in 1792 and spent her life in a tumultuous time. "Vindication" by France Sherwood is a novel based loosely on the actual life of Mary Wollstonecraft. Sherwood takes the familiar details of this early feminist's life and, with a contemporary sensibility, attempts to turn them into a vivid re-creation of the way it might have been. An interesting sounding book.

Howard County Library hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday to Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. The Internet/Video room closes 12 hour before closing. The Library is located at 500 S. Main St. In case of bad weather, it is always a good idea to call to see if we are open. Our general policy is this: if the school districts open at 10 a.m., the Library will open then. If school is cancelled due to really bad weather, then call. Our phone number is 264-2260. The Web site is www.howard-county.lib.tx.us

Hollis McCright is the director of the Howard County Library.



## Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

### Evasive Tactics Pay Off

North dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
 ♠ Q 3  
 ♥ J 7 6  
 ♦ K 10 8 3 2  
 ♣ A 10 7

**WEST**  
 ♠ K 8 2  
 ♥ A  
 ♦ A J 9 6 4  
 ♣ Q 4 3 2

**EAST**  
 ♠ 7  
 ♥ 9 8 4 3 2  
 ♦ Q 7 5  
 ♣ K J 9 5

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ A J 10 9 6 5 4  
 ♥ K Q 10 5  
 ♦ —  
 ♣ 8 6

The bidding:  
 North East South West  
 Pass Pass 1♦ 2♣  
 Dble Pass 2♥ Pass  
 2 NT Pass 3♣ Pass  
 4♠

Opening lead — ace of hearts.

Let's say you're in four spades and West leads the ace of hearts, then shifts to the deuce of clubs, which you win with dummy's ace. How should you continue?

Because you have bid hearts, it is virtually certain that West's opening lead of the ace is a singleton. If you were to try a spade finesse at this point and it lost, there would be a substantial danger of West's putting his partner on lead with a club to obtain a heart ruff.

Since you can afford a trump loser, a somewhat better idea is to forgo the trump finesse and simply play the ace and another spade instead. However, this merely improves your chances without actually assuring them. In the actual case, you would still go down one. West would win the second trump and lead a club to his partner's king, and East's heart return would deliver the killing blow.

In view of the bidding, by far the best approach is to lead the king of diamonds at trick three and on it discard the eight of clubs! This entry-destroying play allows West to score a diamond trick he is not entitled to make, but, more importantly, it severs the line of communication between West and East.

West takes the king of diamonds with the ace but is helpless. Whatever he returns, you win and play the ace and another trump. West winds up scoring three tricks — a spade, a heart and a diamond — but never gets his heart ruff, and you wind up scoring a game.

Tomorrow: The best-laid plans ...  
 ©2007 King Features Syndicate Inc.

## In Sunday's Big Spring Herald

### American Profile

#### Finding Faith

### The less-known Washington

George Washington often is depicted as a Diest, viewing God as a remote creator who abandoned his creation. Many may be surprised to learn that was not the case with The Father of Our Country. Plus, Stormy Kromer caps and nature's perfect salad.

### American Profile

## su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box. Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

	8			3	
9					4
2		9	7	1	6
6	3		4	2	5
			8		
2	7		9	1	4
4		6	5	9	7
7					5
	5			9	

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Dr. Leon has served San Angelo for the past three years. He is currently accepting new patients and welcomes all previously established patients to his new practice. Consultations for any heart or peripheral vascular problem are available.

Dr. Leon accepts Medicare, Medicaid and most private insurances. Patient appointments may be scheduled by calling 325-944-1240. Office location is 3555 Knickerbocker Rd, Suite 101, inside of the WTMA building.

### Cardiology Associates of West Texas

Where your local cardiologist is always available for you.

# The fairy tale had to end sooner or later

If there's one lesson to be learned from the life — and subsequent death — of Anna Nicole Smith, it's that life is never easy.

No matter how much money someone has, or who they surround themselves with, life is full of trials and tribulations, all of which are looking to knock us down a peg or two. No one is immune from this, from the president of the United States to a beautiful — yet perpetually sad — girl from Houston.

For those that don't know, Anna Nicole Smith was born Vickie Lynn Hogan in Houston — that's right, she was a Texan — the daughter of Donald Eugene Hogan and Virgie Mae Tabers.

When she was very young, Smith's family moved to Mexia. Her father then left the family; he and Virgie were divorced Nov. 4, 1969. Smith was raised by her mother and maternal aunt, Elaine. Virgie worked as a law enforcement officer for 28 years.

While growing up, Vickie told others she wanted to be the next Marilyn Monroe. While working as a waitress at Jim's Krispy Fried Chicken in Mexia, she met Billy Wayne Smith, who was the cook at the restaurant. They were married April 4, 1985. She was then age 17 and he was 16.

The next year, she gave birth to their son, Daniel Wayne Smith. She and Billy separated in 1987 and she moved back to Houston with 1-year-old Daniel. They were officially divorced Feb. 3, 1993, in Houston.

Initially, she found employment at Wal-Mart and later as a waitress at Red Lobster, but couldn't make enough money to support herself and Daniel. She then became an exotic dancer.

In 1991, Smith began

taking modeling and voice lessons. In October of that year, she saw an ad in the newspaper to audition for Playboy magazine. She then went on to careers in modeling and acting.

Up to this point, Vickie was just like millions of other beautiful women in Texas, casting her gaze toward the stars of Hollywood and dreaming of the good life. She could have been your little sister, or the girl behind the counter of your favorite restaurant.

Anna Nicole's foray into the world of Playboy took off like a rocket to the moon, with her taking the cover in 1992 and being named Playmate of the year in 1993. Not exactly a father's dream, but the little girl that had dreamed of being the next Marilyn Monroe was well on her way.

Unfortunately, it's unlikely the blond bombshell will be remembered for this part of her life. Most likely, the dark and frightening years of excess and court battles will be what defines her in the American eye.

Her highly publicized marriage to oil business executive and billionaire J. Howard Marshall who was 63 years her senior, resulted in tumultuous speculation that she married the man merely for his money, which she denied.

Following his death, she began a lengthy and ongoing legal battle over a share of his estate. Smith claimed J. Howard orally promised her half of his estate if she married him.

In Sept. 2000, a Los Angeles bankruptcy judge awarded her more than \$440 million. In July 2001, Houston judge Mike Wood affirmed the jury findings in the probate case by ruling that Smith was entitled to nothing and ordered Smith to pay over \$1 million in fees and expenses to Pierce's legal team.

The conflict between the Texas probate court and California bankruptcy court judgments forced the matter into federal court. Her case, Marshall v. Marshall, reached the U.S. Supreme



Anna Nicole Smith enters the side door of the U.S. Supreme Court, as seen in this February 28, 2006, file photograph. On Thursday, Feb. 8, Smith died after collapsing at the Seminole Hard Rock Cafe Hotel and Casino in Hollywood, Florida. She was 39.

Court in February 2006 on a technical question of jurisdiction.

After months of waiting, Smith and her stepson Pierce learned of the Supreme Court's decision on May 1, 2006. The justices unanimously decided in favor of Smith. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg wrote the majority opinion, stating that Smith should get a chance to pursue her claims in federal court.

This decision didn't give Smith a portion of her husband's estate; it merely affirmed her right to pursue a share of it in federal court. Pierce died at age 67 in June, 2006. His widow took over representation of the estate at that time.

She enjoyed great success with her E! Cable Network reality show "The Anna Nicole Show" between 2002 and 2004, and is still growing thanks to DVD sales and reruns.

On Sept. 7 last year, Anna Nicole gave birth to daughter Dannielynn — fathered by attorney Howard K. Stern, according to the birth certificate — in the Bahamas, and took the role of spokeswoman for the diet

pill company TrimSpa.

Then, once again, tragedy struck, throwing Anna Nicole and all of her flaws right back into the tabloid headlines.

Her son, Daniel, died Sept. 10, while visiting his mother and newborn baby sister in the hospital. According to information gathered from a privately performed autopsy, he died from a lethal combination of anti-depressants and methadone, a drug used to treat heroine addiction. He was 20.

Anna Nicole's life was filled with the ups and downs that each of us

knows, the life-lessons and tragedies that make up who each of us are at the very core of our beings. While our problems don't find their way into the headlines regularly, all pain is equal.

The single mom that can't pay her electric bill feels the same pain Anna Nicole did when she was trying to be a rags-to-riches, fairy tale story.

As the country awaits

the results of her autopsy — which most seem convinced will be spattered with drug abuse and excess, and rightfully so — I hope we can take the time to not only remember Anna Nicole, but to also remember Vickie Hogan.

The friends and family she grew up with will remember her for the good she did and the smile she wore. They will remember her as the beautiful young girl, dreaming to get out of small-town Texas to live among the stars and starlets, much like her idol, Marilyn Monroe, did so many years ago. Why can't the rest of the country.

Good-bye Anna Nicole. Good-bye Vickie Lynn. I suppose the fairy tale had to end sooner or later.

Contact Staff Writer  
Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at [citydesk@bigspringherald.com](mailto:citydesk@bigspringherald.com)



THOMAS JENKINS

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**Amy E. Reese**  
D.D.S., P.C.  
432-267-4102

## PROFILE 2007

"WHO WE ARE"

PUBLISH DATE: MARCH 25, 2007

### WHAT'S IN IT:

Stories, photos and ads featuring profiles of people working and living in Howard County.

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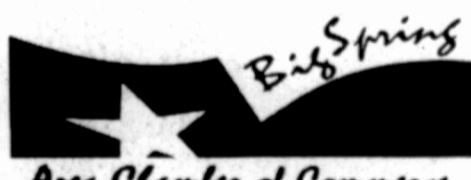
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## News in brief

### Officials deny radical Shiite cleric fled Iraq

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Supporters of Muqtada al-Sadr said Wednesday that the radical Shiite cleric was still in Iraq, denying a report that he fled to Iran ahead of a security crackdown targeting his militia.

An Iraqi government official said al-Sadr was in the Shiite holy city of Najaf Tuesday night, when he received delegates from several government departments. The official, who is familiar with one of those meetings, spoke on condition of anonymity because he has no authority to disclose information on his department's activities.

The denials came after a senior U.S. official said Tuesday that al-Sadr left his Baghdad stronghold some weeks ago and is believed to be in Tehran, where he has family.

The official, who also spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss U.S. monitoring activities, said fractures in al-Sadr's political and militia operations may be part of the reason for his departure. The move is not believed to be permanent, the official said.

### GOP works to stall Iraq resolution

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Republicans are pulling out all the stops to win over GOP colleagues who may be wavering on whether to publicly rebuke President Bush's decision to send more troops into Iraq.

In daylong debate Tuesday, Republicans used emotional pleas from former prisoners of war, political talking points on religious extremism and even Arab ambassadors to rail against a Democratic attempt to put Congress on record against the troop buildup.

"If we let Democrats force us into a debate on the surge or the current situation in Iraq, we lose," Reps. Peter Hoekstra, R-Mich., and John Shadegg, R-Ariz., said in a letter to their GOP colleagues.

"Rather, the debate must be about the global threat of the radical Islamist movement," they wrote.

The long-awaited floor debate on Iraq is the first since Democrats took control of Congress in the November midterm elections. It also comes as the war approaches the four-year mark with more than 3,100 U.S. troops dead.

### Crashed helicopter was shot down

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — A Sea Knight helicopter that crashed last week northwest of Baghdad was shot down, the U.S. military said Wednesday, reversing earlier statements that it appeared to have been due to mechanical failure.

The Marine CH-46 troop

transport went down northwest of Baghdad on Feb. 7, killing all seven people on board, and an al-Qaida-linked Sunni group claimed responsibility and aired a video.

Military officials initially said they believed the crash was due to mechanical failure, but the military announced Wednesday that an investigation showed the crash was "the result of anti-aircraft munitions."

"Initial evidence indicated that the CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter went down as a result of mechanical failure. After further investigation using all available means, the cause of the incident has been confirmed to be hostile fire," said Maj. Jeff Pool, a spokesman for the Multi National Force — West.

The statement said the pilots of an AH-1W Super Cobra helicopter escorting the Sea Knight did not witness the actual attack, but they saw the fire, descent and subsequent crash. The initial signs resembled fires that have occurred aboard CH-46s experiencing mechanical difficulties in the past.

### Stalled inter-Korean talks set to resume

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — The two Koreas set up a meeting for Thursday to discuss resuming high-level talks, the first sign of tensions relaxing on the divided peninsula after North Korea signed a breakthrough nuclear disarmament agreement.

Besides committing North Korea to halting its nuclear programs in exchange for oil, the accord calls for efforts to normalize relations with regional powers and establish a permanent peace between the two Koreas, which technically remain at war.

"What is very important about this agreement," South Korean President

Roh Moo-hyun said, "is that it not only resolves the North Korea nuclear issue itself, but in a further step, it includes a clause for discussions, negotiations on establishing a permanent peace regime on the Korean Peninsula."

The United States intervened on the South's behalf when the North invaded in June 1950. The two sides fought to a standstill and the conflict ended with the signing of an armistice in July 1953. U.S. forces have remained in the South ever since.

North Korea abruptly pulled out of Cabinet-level talks with South Korea in July after South Korea condemned the North for test-firing seven missiles, including one theoretically capable of hitting the U.S. West Coast. The chances of the talks resuming looked even more remote after North Korea proved its claim to possess nuclear weapons with an underground test in October.

### Crowds mark assassination date

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Tens of thousands of Lebanese packed into a city square Wednesday to mark the second anniversary of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri's assassination as the government deployed hundreds of troops a day after bus bombings killed three people.

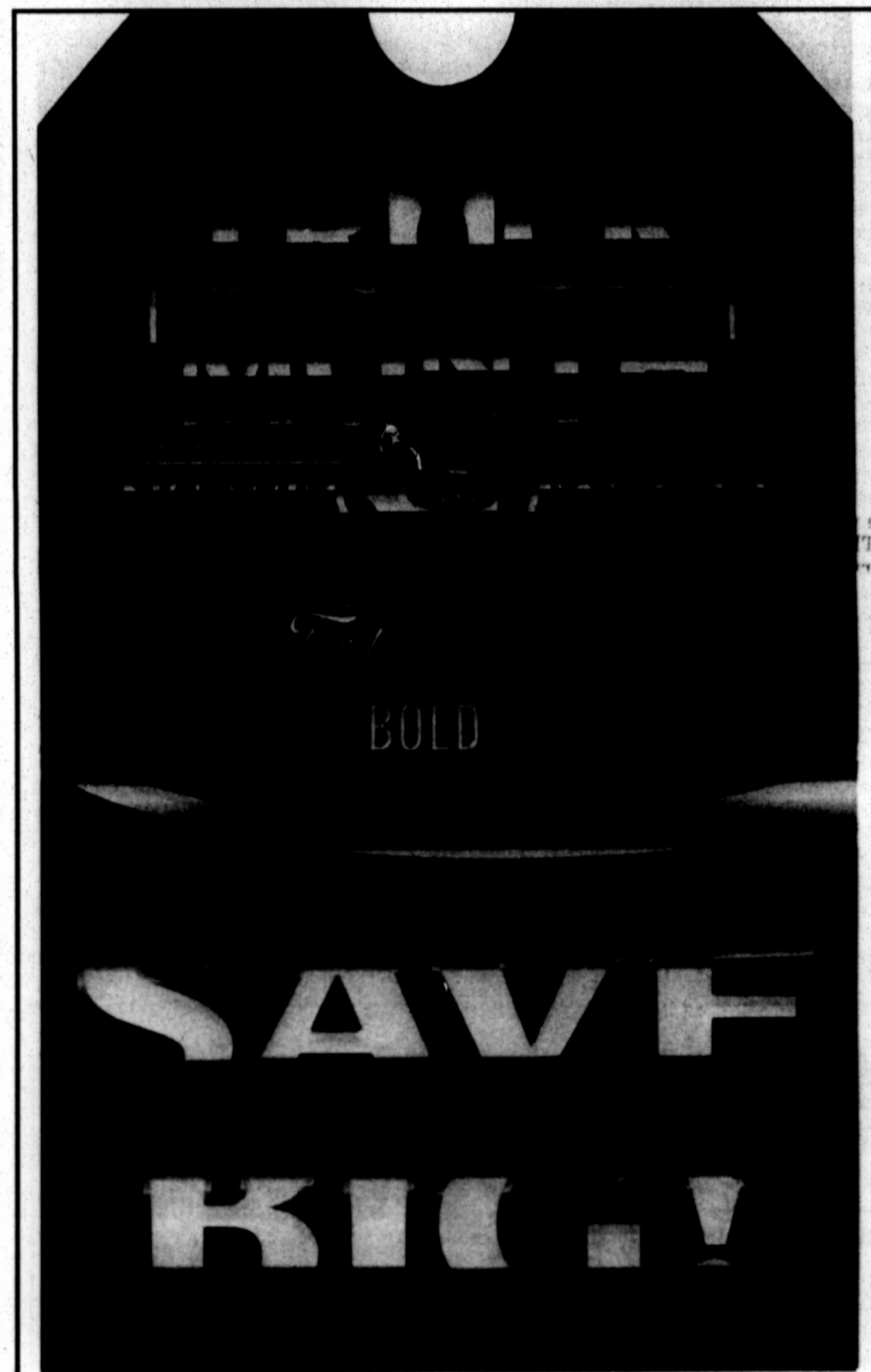
Troops in full combat gear and armored cars deployed in and around Martyrs' Square, where the country's two main rival groups were present: government supporters commemorating Hariri's death and opposition supporters continuing their daily sit-in to demand the government's resignation.

The soldiers set up a razor wire barrier to separate the two groups, and police conducted body searches of people arriving in the square.



Baltimore Sun, MCT photo/Glenn Fawcett  
Emily Lansinger, 12, left, and Morgan Young, 13, speed downhill in Towson, Md., Tuesday.

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► News in brief

**Man arrested at Mexican border after 3 die in Arkansas shooting**

PALESTINE, Ark. (AP) — The mother and grandparents of a woman divorcing her husband were shot to death early Tuesday, and the husband was later arrested trying to cross from Texas to Mexico, officials said.

Arkansas state police spokesman Bill Sadler said Gordon Randal Gwathney, 46, was taken into custody at Laredo. He said he did not have details.

Gwathney's wife, Lisa, had moved in with her mother and grandparents about five miles outside Palestine in eastern Arkansas, St. Francis County Sheriff Bobby May said. The shootings occurred in their home, he said.

The sheriff said Lisa Gwathney, 35, heard shots and was able to run for help. Sylvia Reeves, 51, J.O. Mitchell, 81, and Evelyn Mitchell, 79, were killed, May said.

Lisa Gwathney's brother, Travis Reeves, who lives nearby, was wounded in a gunfight with Gwathney, Sadler said. Deputy Terry Jackson was shot in his patrol truck as Gwathney fled.

Jackson was treated for the gunshot wound and cuts from broken glass, May said. Reeves was hospitalized in Memphis, Tenn. No information was available on his condition.

A woman who answered the phone at a Border Patrol office in Laredo referred calls to the Arkansas state police. It wasn't known whether Gwathney had legal representation.

"Anytime you have something like this happen, it is a terrible thing both for the victim's family and for the officer and his family," McCown said.

**Willacy DA protests charges by cuffing himself at jail**

RAYMONDVILLE (AP) — A South Texas prosecutor chained himself to a card table with toy handcuffs at the county jail Tuesday to protest corruption charges filed against him.

Willacy County District Attorney Juan Guerra, 51, said he can't enter his own office because a special prosecutor in the case, who is a longtime political rival, has taken the keys.

"As long as he has the keys, we don't have access to that office," Guerra told the *Valley Morning Star* for Wednesday editions. "The office of the district attorney cannot be closed. I have to be accessible to the people, so here I am."

Guerra was charged Monday with three felony counts of theft by a public servant following an investigation by special prosecutor Gustavo Garza. The charges allege Guerra tried to extort \$10,000 from a bail bonding company, privately resold a car that had been seized for forfeiture, and took \$800 in public funds by seeking reimbursement for expenses he didn't make.

He also was charged with one count of interfering with the public duties of a peace officer after blocking the door of his office Sunday when Raymondville police tried to serve a search warrant.

His attorney, former Cameron County Judge Gilberto Hinojosa, plans to counter the charges filed against Guerra.

"We have solid evidence that (Garza) has no evidence for any of those claims," Hinojosa said. "This is a travesty of justice."

On Tuesday, he again dared officers to arrest him like he did Sunday, saying he violated his bond when he traveled to Mexico, his birthplace.

"The conditions they placed on me are ridiculous," he said.

downtown Reno store in February 2003. Walgreens' lawyers acknowledged the clerk slammed a door and walked off the job but denied the clerk uttered the word and maintained the incident was a case of poor customer service absent any racial bias.

"Obviously, we're pleased with the verdict," said Howard Rosenblum, a lawyer for Walgreens.

"We take allegations such as this very seriously," he said. "Walgreens has said all along we don't tolerate discrimination of any sort. ... It's good to see the system work."

A lawyer for the plaintiffs said they would appeal the case to the Nevada Supreme Court.

"We're not done," Ian Silverberg told The Associated Press. He said the appeal would challenge some rulings "that kept out a lot of information that I think should have gone to the jury about what Walgreens knew" about the clerk accused of the misconduct.

Silverberg said in closing arguments Tuesday morning that the men deserved millions but would accept just \$1 as justice served.

"It was wrong for Walgreens to treat these men differently for one reason and one reason only — the color of their skin," Silverberg said.

"These men stood up against the 14th largest company in the U.S. for four years to let Walgreens know they were not going to take it," he told the jury. "Please let Walgreens know there is no

more harmful word with such history and meaning for an entire group of people."

**Charges dismissed for ex-wrestler accused of hazing at pool party**

FLOWER MOUND (AP) — The Denton County District Attorney's Office has dismissed hazing and assault charges against a former Flower Mound High School wrestler.

Dustin Everett, 19, was scheduled to stand trial Wednesday on three counts of hazing and three counts of assault stemming from a 2005 pool party held by the Dallas-area high school wrestling team.

Allegations of organized hazing, violent beatings and sexually charged actions led to the arrest of 18 students and the team's head coach. Wrestling team members and their supporters maintained that the accusations were exaggerated accounts of boyhood roughhousing.

Jamie Beck, a spokeswoman for the district attorney's office, said the accusers requested that the case against Everett be dropped. She said prosecutors still felt they had a strong case.

"We met with all of the victims and their parents, and through many discussions with them about the case, what a trial is actually like and just the length of time that's gone by for them, they felt it was in their children's best interest that this be over," Beck said Tuesday.

**Wharton officer fatally shoots teen during search**

WHARTON (AP) — A 17-year-old was shot and killed by a Wharton police officer as members of a drug task force executed a search warrant at the teen's home, authorities said.

Daniel Castillo Jr. died Tuesday afternoon at a Galveston hospital, hours after the raid on his home in Wharton, located about 50 miles southwest of Houston, the Wharton County District Attorney's Office said.

Authorities declined to release details of the shooting but said it occurred as members of the Wharton County District Attorney Narcotics Task Force, Wharton Police Department Emergency Response Team and the Wharton County Sheriff's Office Star Team were executing the warrant.

Wharton police Capt. Richard Coleman said the officer involved was a six-year veteran of the department. Coleman refused to release the officer's name citing the ongoing investigation.

"He will be put on administrative duty and will not be working the streets until we can sort out exactly what happened," Coleman said.

Coleman said he didn't know whether Castillo was a suspect in the search.

"He lived at the residence where the search warrant was being executed," Coleman said.

District Attorney Josh McCown said the Texas Rangers are participating in the investigation and a Department of Public Safety team was called in to process the scene.

**Nevada jury clears Walgreen Co. in \$2.5 million suit**

RENO, Nev. (AP) — A jury Tuesday cleared Walgreen Co. of racial discrimination alleged in a \$2.5 million civil lawsuit brought by four black Texas men who say they were wronged in a confrontation at a Reno drug store four years ago.

The six-woman, two-man jury in Washoe County District Court deliberated less than an hour after listening to seven days of testimony.

The unanimous verdict capped a dramatic trial that saw the judge repeatedly admonish both legal teams and the lead plaintiff, Bruce Johnson, 44, of Houston, taken from the courthouse by ambulance last week when he suffered an asthma attack after aggressive cross-examination.

In their lawsuit, the four men claimed that a photo lab clerk shouted a racial slur, slammed a door and denied them service after they complained about the quality of their photographs at the

*Happy Valentine's Day FROM THE HEART!*

 Happy Valentine's Day! Love Mommy	<b>Bradie Louschner</b> <b>Alex Louschner</b>  We Love You Daddy! Happy Valentine's Day!	Happy Valentine's Day <b>Markus Boyd</b> Age 4  Love, Mom & Dad
 Happy Valentine's Day! I Love You Russ	<i>Happy Valentine's Day!</i> Trinity Tony Jr. Taylor Terrazas Love, Jessica & Tony	<b>JOHN TYLER</b> You Are My #1 Valentine  Love, Chedder
<b>Chuck</b> 26 Valentine's Days are not enough! Be My Eternal Valentine!  Love, Cynthia	<b>HAPPY 1ST VALENTINE'S DAY!</b>  We Love You Jarrett, Papa, Nana & A.J.	<b>Happy Valentine's &amp; Birthday</b> <b>David Anguiano</b>  Love, MOM

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### IN BRIEF

#### Stanton wins and earns playoff birth

With a playoff birth riding in the balance the Buffaloes defeated Haskell by a score of 49-39, Tuesday night in the District 5-2A race.

In double figures for the Buffaloes was Jaron Sparks with 18 points and Garrett Fulton with 10.

Over the final 8:00 minutes Stanton was determined to secure its playoff spot and they continued to outscore Haskell and set the tone for post-season action.

The Stanton playoff game will be announced at a later date, school officials said.



#### Miami Heat coach is ready to return

Pat Riley announced he'll return as coach of the Heat next week, following a six-week absence to address health issues. He'll begin running practice again when the team reconvenes after the All-Star break and will be back on the sideline Feb. 21 when Miami visits Houston.

Riley stepped aside Jan. 3, when the Heat had a 13-17 record. The 61-year-old, who is also the Heat's president, had surgery to repair knee cartilage on Jan. 5, then hip replacement surgery the following week.

He's been working in his office at times in recent weeks, meeting with players on several occasions, and now is apparently ready to return full-time to lead the Heat's defense of their NBA championship.

#### Hawks fundraiser for rodeo set

On Tuesday, Feb. 27, the Howard College Rodeo team will conduct a Cow Pattie Bingo fundraiser.

The event will be held at 1:30 p.m. on the east grounds of the Student Union Building and all squares are \$ 10. Tickets are now available.

For more information, contact Coach Greg Kernick at 416-9477.

## Bulldogs earn District 5-2A championship



HERALD photo/Mike Grimes  
Stephen Ewing pulls up for a jump shot for the district champion Coahoma Bulldogs. On Tuesday night Coahoma clinched the title by defeating Stamford, 59-48.

#### MIKE GRIMES

Sports Editor

STAMFORD — The District 5-2A basketball championship belongs to the Coahoma Bulldogs.

Clear some space in the trophy room because Stephen Ewing, Colter Morgan and the rest of the Bulldog team wasted little time knocking off Stamford Tuesday night, 59-48, to claim the district title just one year after winning only 10 games.

In the opening minutes of what turned out to be the district clinching victory, the Bulldogs opened a lead and pulled out in front by as many as 8-points.

Ewing was the game's leading scorer — he scored 19 points and attacked the glass to pull down 7 rebounds.

"We played well for most of the game," Coahoma's coach Kim Nichols said after the win. "This was a tough environment to have to come into and win a championship. Stamford sure didn't make it easy for us tonight. This was a tough, earned road win."

In the second quarter the two teams traded baskets — so much so that when the horn sounded to end the first half — the Bulldogs lead was still stuck on 8 points, 30-22.

After halftime, according to the Bulldogs coach, Coahoma played tough defense and Morgan continued to dominate under the basket to pull away from the Indians.

"We like to run our zone defense and Colter is a big reason for that," Nichols said. "He has the ability to make up for mistakes we might make by blocking and changing shots — and grabbing all the rebounds. His presence down low allows everyone to play tough on the perimeter."

"Of course I am proud of all our players ... we were 10-20 last season and now we're the district champs. That is a direct result of their hard work and dedication."

In the final period Stamford outscored the visiting Bulldogs 14-13, but the Bulldogs had clinched the championship and the party had already started.

Morgan finished the game with 11 points, 14 rebounds and 10 blocked shots. Once again the 6-foot-8 junior had a triple double to lead his teammates.

Jason Gonzales, the Bulldogs leading scorer this season, added 13 points in the win.

The next opponent for Coahoma will be either Van Horn or Brady. The site, date and time of the playoff game will be announced at a later date.

## Hawks win, Region V Tournament is possible

#### ERIC. RODEWALD

Special to the Herald

Hollywood couldn't have scripted a better shoot-out than the Western Junior College Athletic Conference match-up at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum Monday night, with the Howard College men's basketball team shooting down visiting Frank Phillips College, 86-77.

The two teams combined to make a total of 19 three-pointers, as FPC hit 13-of-26 from beyond the arc and the Hawks were 6-for-16. Dejan Sencanski was Howard's top gun-slinger, connecting on 4-of-5 three-point attempts while FPC's Jason Rogers and Josh Jenkins both drained four 3's apiece.

Despite Howard controlling the lead throughout the game, FPC's long range threat kept them close down the stretch. With 10 minutes to play, the barrage of 3-pointers was most evident as

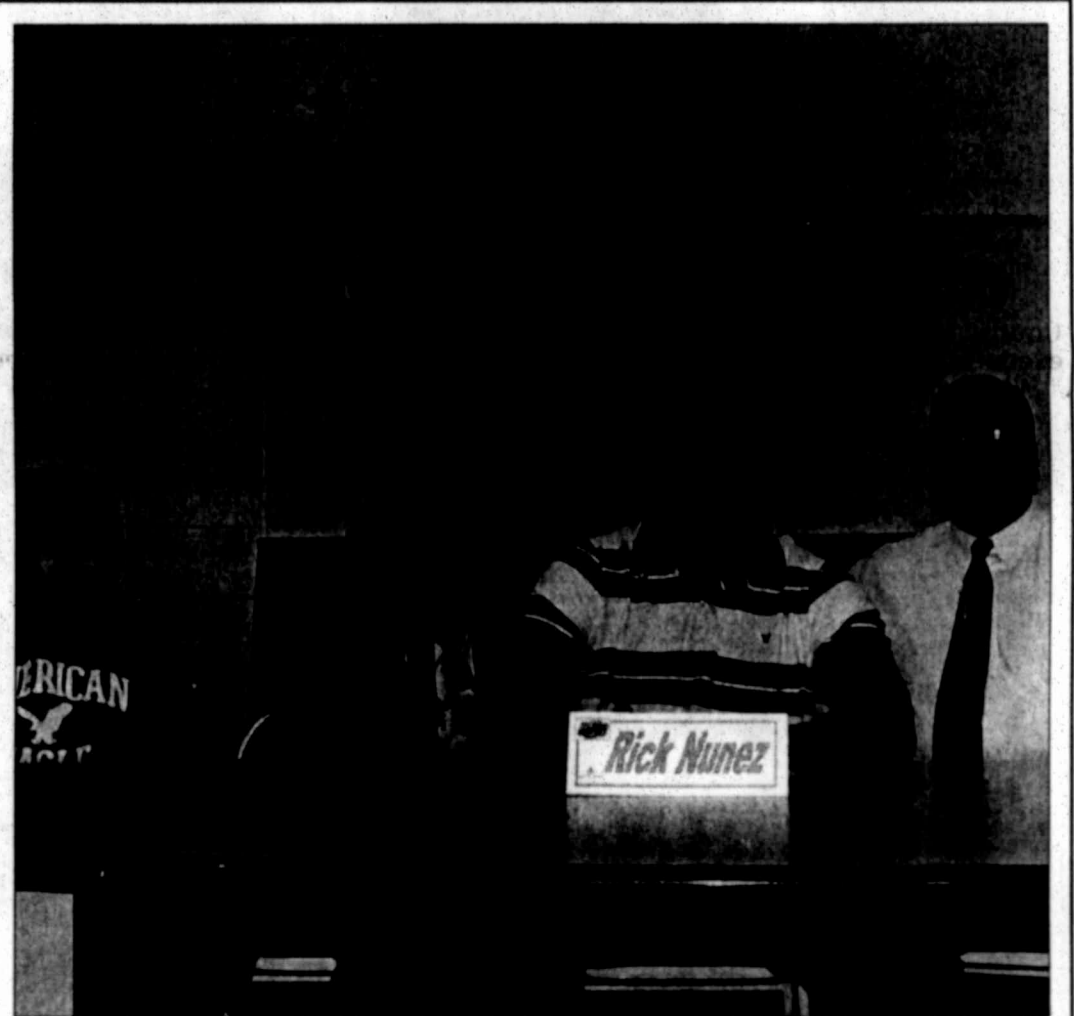
Quincy Robinson hit three 3's in a minute compared to just one 3-pointer by Sencanski. Jenkins tacked on two free throws for FPC to tie the game at 61 apiece with 8:52 remaining.

At that point, Howard head coach Mark Adams didn't want the Hawks to relinquish the lead and suffer yet another close loss.

"Unfortunately, those thoughts do enter your mind because you are reliving the nightmare of those other six games we lost," Adams said. "We hit some big shots against Odessa, so we told our team before the game, we know how to win and got the monkey off our back (against Odessa)."

Down the stretch the Hawks answered FPC's every challenge, beginning with Brandon Sampay scoring an offensive rebound to break the

See **HAWKS**, page 2B



HERALD photo/Courtesy  
Rick Nunez is shown signing a letter of intent to play college football at West Texas A&M. The former Big Spring Steer offensive lineman is photographed with his brother Christopher, his parents — Pat and Rick Nunez Sr., and his high school head coach (standing) Tim Holt.

## Texas Tech pulls the upset against No. 6 Aggies

#### By KRISTIE RIEKEN

AP Sports Writer

COLLEGE STATION — Texas Tech has had problems finishing off opponents during its recent five-game skid.

After losing in double overtime by two to Oklahoma State and seeing Nebraska beat them on a last-second shot a week ago, the Red Raiders knew they couldn't let another game slip away.

They didn't Tuesday night. Jarrius Jackson hit a jumper at the buzzer to give Texas Tech a 77-75 win over No. 6 Texas A&M.

"Tonight when we got down, we just said 'Let's finish,'" said swingman Martin Zeno. "Because we were so close to finishing the last couple of games and we couldn't, so we just had to finish this one."

Acie Law tied the game with a 3-pointer from the top of the key with 6 seconds left before Jackson drove the length of the court and pulled up for the winning score. The crowd sat in stunned silence for a few seconds while officials looked at a replay of the basket before declaring it good.

"He came down and had presence of mind enough to know how much time was left," Texas Tech coach Bob Knight said of Jackson. "He made a shot fake that cleared his shot and then he hit it. He handled that extremely well at the end."

Jackson finished with 31 points and helped Knight avoid his sixth straight loss, which would have matched the worst losing streak in his career. The only time Knight lost six in a row was in 1970-71, his last season with Army.

"Once Acie hit that shot I saw that there was 6 seconds left and I just wanted to take it as deep as I could," Jackson said. "When I got to the free throw line, I saw that I had a good shot and luckily it bounced my way."

Jackson was shocked that Texas A&M wasn't "all in his face" at the end.

"I was very surprised because I thought they were going to double-team me when I got past half-court," he said. "But they stayed in man-to-man, so I just thought I would take advantage of it."

Knight was impressed with



MCT photo/Jeffery Washington/Fort Worth Star-Telegram  
Texas Tech's Bob Knight pleads his case to an official in a Red Raider basketball game. On Tuesday night Tech upset Texas A&M, 77-75.

Jackson's play at the end and glad that he left the game in the hands of his star player.

"I think it would have been a hell of a mistake if we'd have called timeout because we'd have never gotten a break like that," Knight said. "I didn't call time-

out and that's why these kids deserve an awful lot of credit for getting it in and getting it down the floor."

The win was Tech's second of the season over the Aggies and

See **TECH**, page 2B

**HAWKS**

Continued from page 1B

tie and give Howard a 63-61 lead with 7:08 to play — a lead the Hawks wouldn't surrender as they outscored FPC 21-16 over the final seven minutes.

"I told them in the (media) timeout to take advantage of these last few possessions and we did," Adams said. "Sean (Watson), Dan (Dejan Sencanski), and Brandon (Sampay) stepped up at the end of the game and that was encouraging."

Sencanski led the Hawks with 22 points. Also in double figures for Howard were: Terrance Hill, 20 points; Sean Watson, 18; and Sampay, 16. Benson Akpan grabbed 11 rebounds while Watson had seven and Hill added six. Watson also dished out eight assists.

The Hawks have five games remaining on their schedule, three of which are road games, prior to the Region V tourna-

ment, but Adams feels the post-season is already here.

"Every game to us is like a playoff game," Adams said. "We have to win to stay in the hunt."

With the loss, Frank Phillips College (17-8, 8-3) falls into a tie for second place in the conference with Midland College (18-7, 8-3), while WJCAC leader and nationally ranked South Plains College (20-5, 9-2) has a one game lead in the standings. Howard (19-6, 6-5) is three games out of first place and two games out of second. A 94-90 upset loss Monday night in overtime for Odessa College (18-7, 6-5) at New Mexico Military Institute (6-15, 1-9) combined with the Howard victory leaves Howard and Odessa tied for the fourth and final spot in the Region V tournament.

The Hawks will have a chance to take sole possession of fourth place Thursday night at Western Texas College, as Odessa has the night off. Tip-off time is set for 7:50 p.m. in Snyder.

**Mavericks win their eighth in a row**

By The Associated Press

The Dallas Mavericks used a strong fourth quarter to rally for their eighth straight win. The Miami Heat are rolling, too, and when they return to the court after the All-Star game, coach Pat Riley will be back on the sideline for the first time since Jan. 3.

Dirk Nowitzki had 38 points, 11 rebounds and eight assists, and the Mavs overcame a 16-point second-half deficit to pull out a 99-93 victory at Milwaukee on Tuesday night. The Mavericks, with the NBA's best record of 43-9, outscored the Bucks 28-11 in the fourth quarter. Milwaukee self-

destructed with six turnovers and failed to hit a field goal in the final 7:05.

"We really scrambled trying to contest shots," Nowitzki said. "We feel like we're a good defensive team, but we have to step it up earlier. Especially on the road, you don't want a team to get up 16."

Dallas took its first lead of the game, 93-92, with 1:04 to play on Nowitzki's layup after the Mavericks got a third chance with a pair of offensive rebounds.

Dwyane Wade shook off a bruised left shoulder to score 16 of his 35 points in the fourth quarter, and Miami beat Portland 104-85 to get back to the .500

mark for the first time in three months.

The NBA champion Heat have won seven of eight to even their record at 26-26 going into the All-Star break. Riley will be back next week after recovering from surgeries on his hip and knee.

"I'm just glad we won. We've gotten to the point we kept talking about," said interim coach Ron Rothstein, who went 13-9 as Riley's replacement and helped the team recover from being six games under .500 on Jan. 27. "Now this is our launching pad for after the break."

In other games Tuesday night, it was: San Antonio 107, New Jersey 82; Memphis

108, New Orleans 104; Toronto 112, Chicago 111; Houston 109, Sacramento 104 in overtime; and New York 107, the Los Angeles Lakers 106.

"Dirk Nowitzki is incredible," Mavericks coach Avery Johnson said. "Man, sometimes, I get caught watching him, he's so good."

With a chance to tie, the Bucks missed yet another shot when Charlie Bell, who finished with 11 points, misfired on an 18-footer.

The Mavericks got the rebound, and Jerry Stackhouse hit two free throws. Nowitzki added two free throws of his own for the final margin.

Dallas has now won 29 of its last 31 games.

**TECH**

Continued from page 1B

the Red Raiders remain the only Big 12 team to beat A&M (21-4, 9-2 Big 12) this season.

The loss broke a five-game winning streak for A&M, which hadn't lost since its last game with Tech, and also snapped a streak of 21 straight home

wins.

Knight thinks the recent struggles of his team could have caused the Aggies to let down their guard.

"We've been having some problems with finishing games," he said. "We haven't played real well and sometimes that can hurt a team that's as good as A&M. So we perhaps were able to take advantage of that a little

bit."

The Red Raiders (16-10, 5-6) led 74-70 before a put-back by Joseph Jones got A&M within two with 32 seconds remaining. Charlie Burgess hit a free throw to make it 75-72 before Law's basket.

Law led the Aggies with 23 points and Jones and Antanas Kavaliauskas added 18 each.

Texas A&M led by double digits through most of

the first half and early in the second half, but the Red Raiders took the lead with 10 minutes to go.

"It all came down to we didn't guard well enough," Texas A&M coach Billy Gillispie said.

Texas A&M led 52-45 when Knight drew a technical for jawing with an official about a foul call. Law made one of the foul shots to push the lead to eight, but the Red Raiders

looked inspired after Knight's outburst and outscored the Aggies 8-2 over the next 2 1/2 minutes. A reverse layup by Zeno gave Tech its first lead, 55-54.

The Red Raiders trailed by as many as 11 points early in the second half, but got back in it by laying off the outside shot and aggressively attacking the basket. Threes by White and Jackson on

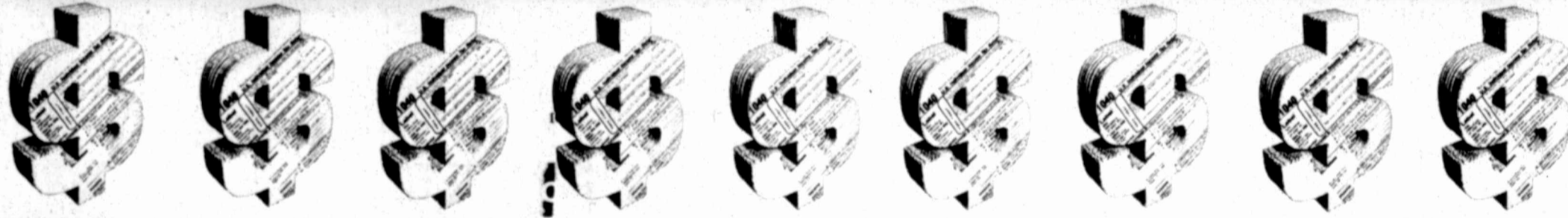
consecutive possessions cut the lead to 47-43 with about 14 minutes remaining.

"We had a chance to put it away several times and we just didn't take advantage of our opportunities," Gillispie said.

The Aggies entered the game having held 35 straight opponents to less than 50 percent shooting, which was the longest streak in the nation.

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6:30 PM	News (CC)	News (CC)	Duho de Pasiones	King of the Hill	The Simpsons	Vida de Blanco	News Be a Millionaire	Raymond	Curt Landry	News-Lehrer	MythBusters (CC)	CSI: Crime	CSI: Crime	Without a	Live (CC)	Zack & Cody	College	College	Psych (CC)
7:30 PM	George Lopez	George Lopez	La Fea Mas Bella	Bones (CC)	Jericho (CC)	Marina	Friday Night Lights (CC)	Raymond	Update/Israel	Barroom Chall	Futurocar	Movie: Original	CSI: Crime	Without a	The Parkers	Movie: Head	Mt. at N.C. St.	Ohio State	Psych (CC)
8:30 PM	Accordings-Jim	Accordings-Jim	Mundo de Fieras	American Idol	Criminal Minds	Zorro - La Es-	Deal or No	Raymond	Light of the	The Hidden	MythBusters	UFC's Ultimate	Without a	Girlfriends	(CC)	NASCAR Prev	College	Psych (CC)	
9:30 PM	Lost (CC)	Lost (CC)	Don Francisco	Becker (CC)	CSI: NY	Decisiones de	Medium (CC)	King	Heart Disease	MythBusters	Movie: No	Without a	Girlfriends	Life Derek	Movie: 3	Duke at	Psych (CC)		
10:30 PM	News (CC)	News (CC)	Primer Impacto	70s Show	News	Noticias	News	Movie: A Thin	The Hour of	Charlie Rose	Futurocar	Pros vs. Joes	Las Vegas	Jame Fox	Zack & Cody	SportsCenter	Movie:		
11:30 PM	The Insider	Jimmy Kimmel	La Hora de la	King of the Hill	Letterman	Letterman	Late Night	Love and Hate	CCM Ministries	Sign Off	Futurocar	45 Movie:	CSI: Crime	Alias (CC)	In Living Color	Phil of Future	NASCAR Now	Garmight	
12:30 AM	Live (CC)	Extra (CC)	El Privilegio de	My Wife-Kids	Show	Conan O'Brien	Movie: Devil in	Update/Israel	MythBusters	Against All	Star Trek:	Alias (CC)	Comicview	Proud Family	Bull Fiding:	SportsCenter	The Twilight		

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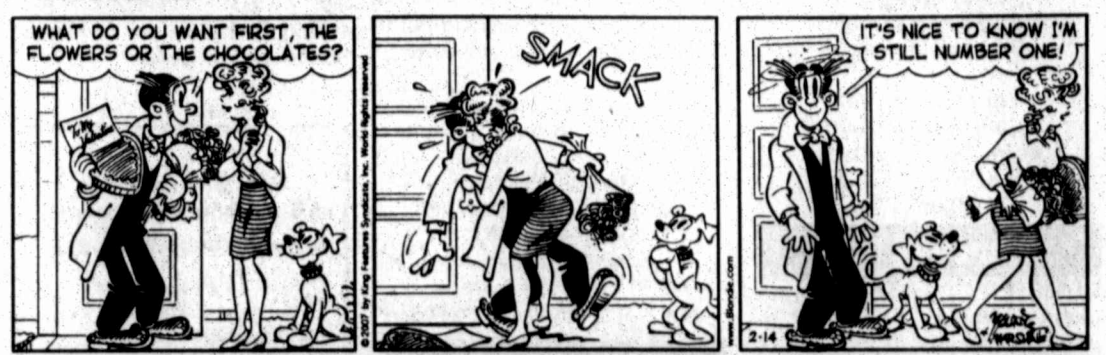


"Hugs are great gifts. Grandma. The only wrapping is arms!"

HAGAR



BLONDIE



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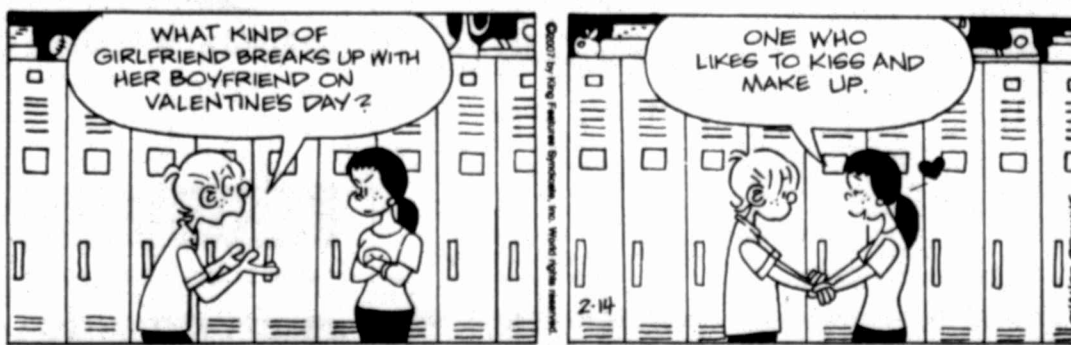
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This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Feb. 14, the 45th day of 2007. There are 320 days left in the year. This is Valentine's Day.

Today's Highlight in History: On Feb. 14, 1929, the "St. Valentine's Day Massacre" took place in a Chicago garage as seven rivals of Al Capone's gang were gunned down.

On this date: In 1778, the American ship Ranger carried the recently adopted Star and Stripes to a foreign port for the first time as it arrived in France. In 1859, Oregon was admitted to the Union as the 33rd state.

In 1903, the Department of Commerce and Labor was established. (It was divided into separate departments of Commerce and Labor in 1913.)

In 1912, Arizona became the 48th state of the Union.

In 1920, the League of Women Voters was founded in Chicago; its first president was Maud Wood Park. In 1962, first lady Jacqueline Kennedy conducted a televised tour of the White House. In 1979, Adolph Dubs, the U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan, was kidnapped in Kabul by Muslim extremists and killed in a shootout between his abductors and police. In 1989, Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini called on Muslims to kill Salman Rushdie, author of "The Satanic Verses," a novel condemned as blasphemous.

One year ago: Attorney Harry Whittington, the man accidentally shot by Vice President Dick Cheney, suffered a mild heart attack when a shotgun pellet traveled to his heart, but he later recovered.

Today's Birthdays: TV personality Hugh Downs is 86. Actress-singer Florence Henderson is 73. Country singer Razyzy Bailey is 68. Jazz musician Maceo Parker is 64. Movie director Alan Parker is 63. Journalist Carl

Bernstein is 63. Sen. Judd Gregg, R-N.H., is 60. TV personality Pat O'Brien is 59. Magician Teller (Penn and Teller) is 59. Cajun singer-musician Michael Doucet (Beausoleil) is 56. Actor Ken Wahl is 50. Opera singer Renee Fleming is 48. Actress Meg Tilly is 47. Singer-producer Dwayne Wiggins is 46. Actor Enrico Colantoni is 44. Actor Zach Galligan is 43. Rock musician Ricky Wolk (The Nixons) is 41. Tennis player Manuela Maleeva is 40. Rock musician Kevin Cadogan (Lit) is 35. Rock singer Rob Thomas (Matchbox Twenty) is 35. Actor Freddie Highmore is 15.

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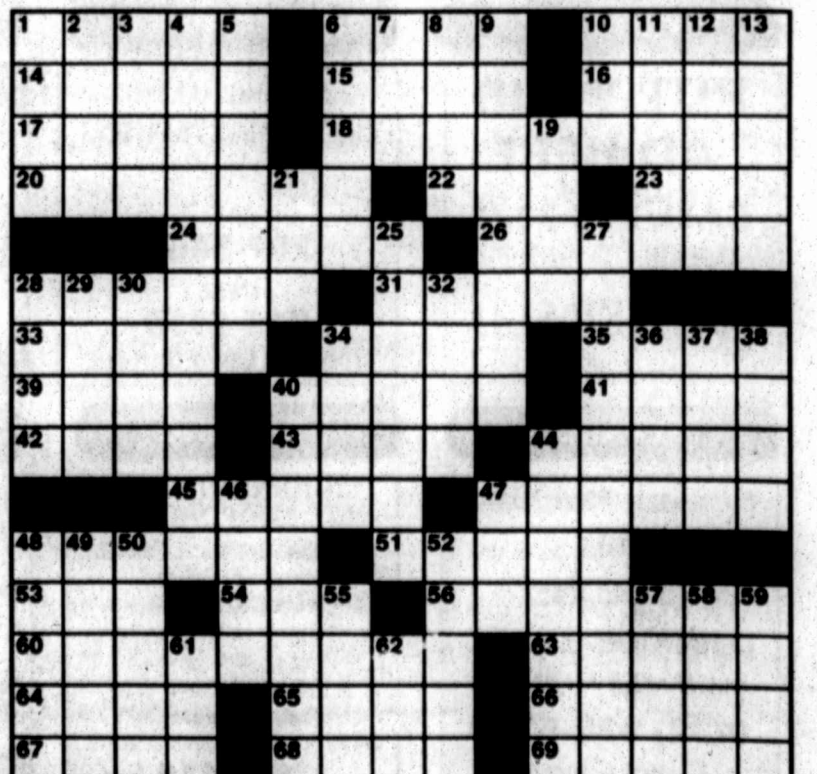
Answer to previous puzzle

RAMS	SAGA	MINED
ABBY	PROP	OCEAN
NINA	RENO	TIARA
TURNING	POINTS	
AMA	FOG	
REAR	BEAN	TAM
OPERA	KING	ERTE
WHIRLING	DERVISH	
DIMS	MOOS	OATER
YDS	TEXT	JUNEAU
TEA	EGG	
SPINNING	WHEEL	
BLEND	MARE	BLAB
OUTGO	ABEL	BANE
GREEN	SSTS	SLED

Newsday Crossword

RED ZONE by Fred Piscop  
Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

- |                                     |                          |                               |                         |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                       | 54 de Cologne            | 4 Major transgression         | 34 Roman censor         |
| 1 Finch, perhaps                    | 56 Romanian tennis pro   | 5 Gym employee                | 36 Sty guy              |
| 6 Unlikely to bite                  | 60 Washington's Birthday | 6 Latin for "land"            | 37 Barely beat          |
| 10 Fine spray                       | 63 Rome's river          | 7 From Z                      | 38 Charless shirts      |
| 14 "Pomp and Circumstance" composer | 64 Vacuum hookup         | 8 Sail supporter              | 40 Treasonous act       |
| 15 List-ending abbr.                | 65 Resting upon          | 9 Box with buttons            | 44 Poor movie rating    |
| 16 Fascinated by                    | 66 Freud                 | 10 "Manima ___!"              | 46 ___-do-well          |
| 17 Bow or Barton                    | 67 Unretured serves      | 11 Part of IV                 | 47 Mexico Mrs.          |
| 18 Perfume ingredient               | 68 Boorish sort          | 12 Knight's mount             | 48 Coffeehouse offering |
| 20 Less punctual                    | 69 Oboists' buys         | 13 Rich pastry                | 49 Improvised           |
| 22 Dam-building org.                |                          | 19 Suffix with dinner or soft | 50 Oscar winner         |
| 23 No longer working: Abbr.         |                          | 21 Raised rails               | Witherspoon             |
| 24 Acquired relative                |                          | 25 Plays in the mud           | 52 Not at all           |
| 26 Pinball palace                   |                          | 27 Alabama football team      | 57 Down                 |
| 28 Treats with tea                  |                          | 28 Carb source                | 55 Not exceeding        |
| 31 Fall bloomer                     |                          | 29 Mrs. Dithers               | 57 Fit for the task     |
| 33 Arctic or Antarctic              |                          | 30 Jergens competitor         | 58 Watermelon feature   |
| 34 Pinocchio goldfish               |                          | 32 "As ___ on TV"             | 59 Goes wrong           |
| 35 "Yeah, sure!"                    |                          |                               | 61 Hi-___ graphics      |
| 39 Russia's ___ Mountains           |                          |                               | 62 Letters of debt      |
| 40 Farm worker                      |                          |                               |                         |
| 41 Prevailing style                 |                          |                               |                         |
| 42 Calendar squares                 |                          |                               |                         |
| 43 School since 1440                |                          |                               |                         |
| 44 Inedible orange                  |                          |                               |                         |
| 45 Being pulled                     |                          |                               |                         |
| 47 Sounds from snoozers             |                          |                               |                         |
| 48 George Eliot character           |                          |                               |                         |
| 51 Warning sound                    |                          |                               |                         |
| 53 Wordsworth work                  |                          |                               |                         |



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# HOWARD COUNTY SNAPSHOTS

Bulk Rate  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit #30  
Big Spring, TX 79720

CR-Rt. Sort  
Postal  
Patron

FREE

FEBRUARY 14, 2007



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**AAA VENDING** Route Big \$\$ Maker. Almond Joy/ Frito/ Hershey Must Sell by 2/22/07 \$11,195 Invest required. 800-781-6895.

**GARDEN CITY AREA ROUTE OPEN VERY GOOD EARNINGS!** Afternoon delivery 6 days a week! Reliable transportation & insurance a must.

For more info call **Duane McCollum** or come by 710 Scurry BIG SPRING HERALD (432)263-7331

**Cemetery Lots**  
2 SPACES in Bethany Section of Trinity Memorial. Call (540)463-2429.

**Educational**

**SOUTHEASTERN CAREER INSTITUTE** Midland Campus Act now for career training from Southeastern Career Institute - Midland.

Train in:  
\* Computer Business Systems  
\* Dental Assistant  
\* Medical Assistant  
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**1-800-497-1557**  
www.scinow6.com  
4320 W. Illinois Avenue, Suite A, Midland, TX 79703

**Help Wanted**

**CLERICAL POSITION.** 12 noon-6:00 pm. Apply Jack & Jill, 1708 Nolan.

**BLAST MASTERS** has a position available for:  
\* Crew Technician  
Come by 1711 Snyder Hwy., and pickup an application. No phone calls please. Must have a valid TX drivers license and pass mandatory drug test.

**Help Wanted**

**THE OFFICE** of Rural Community Affairs is currently seeking qualified candidates for position of **Field Program Monitor (Auditor IV) Job Posting #ORCA-07-14** Minimum Monthly Salary **\$3,768.50\*** (\*Salary commensurate with qualifications/experience.) For more information, visit our website at www.orea.state.tx.us. An Equal Opportunity Employer.

**ADVERTISING SALES REPRESENTATIVE**

The Big Spring Herald is looking for a go-getter to sell advertising in our retail department. If you like people, have sales experience (newspaper sales a plus), are a team player, have dependable transportation, are organized, pay attention to details, are creative, and like to make money, we want to talk to you. We offer an established account list, benefits, paid vacation, mileage reimbursement, and commission. Apply at 710 Scurry, or send resume to:

Rick Nunez  
P.O. Box 1431  
Big Spring, TX 79721  
or fax:  
(432)264-7205  
email to:  
addesign@bigspringherald.com

**DRIVERS BE HOME DAILY.** Coastal Transport is a leader in transport of LPG Asphalt & Petroleum Products. Coastal serves high profile accounts & needs dedicated professionals to join our growing team in Big Spring. Quality 23 with class A & One year driving experience. Inquire about Sign-on Bonus up to \$4000. Call Jay at 888-527-7221.

**Help Wanted**

**Are you paying too much for Health Insurance? The City of Big Spring Pays 100% of the Employee's premium.**

Apply for these positions today:  
**Police Officer Certified & Non.** \$14.40/hr.  
**Plant Operator** \$12.12/hr.  
**Jailer** \$10.98/hr.  
**Utility Worker** \$9.94/hr.

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**Contact:**  
Human Resources  
City of Big Spring  
Phone: 432-264-2346  
Fax: 432-264-2387  
www.ci.big-spring.tx.us  
EOE

**BLUE BELL** Creameries has an immediate opening for full time shipping & receiving clerk. Benefits include paid vacation, sick leave, retirement, insurance & more. Must pass a back ground check, physical & drug screen. Apply at Texas Workforce, 310 Owens, Big Spring.

**CLINE CONSTRUCTION** is taking applications for the following equipment operators including dozer, loader, maintainer, backhoe and bucket trucks. Class A & B CDL drivers. Concrete workers and general laborers. Immediate positions open call or come by (432)267-6006, 1807 N. FM 700, 8:00-5:00.

**NEED BOB** Tail/ Transport Driver for fuel deliveries. Excellent starting pay with benefits. Must have CDL & good driving record. Come by 1st & Johnson, Park Fuels, Big Spring.

**Help Wanted**

**CNAs**

Full time openings with Benefits available! Requires TEXAS State Certification. No phone calls please. EOE/MFHV. Call (325)573-6332, or apply to Debbie Collier, RN, DON, or Priscilla Barrera, LVN, ADON, at SNYDER HEALTH CARE CENTER, 5311 Big Spring Highway, Snyder.

**Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center** is looking for a Full-time billing/collection specialist. Successful applicant will have a minimum of 5 yrs. experience in outpatient healthcare billing and collections. Compensation is commensurate with education and experience. Please deliver resume to 306 W. 3rd Street or Fax to 267-3809.

**Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center** has an opening for the position of **Office Manager**. A successful applicant will have experience in general accounting procedures including payroll, general ledger & accounts payable. Experience in outpatient healthcare billing and collections is also required. Applicants should be technically competent, extremely dependable & very caring towards the public. Position requires proficiency in Word and Excel. Salary: commensurate with education and experience. Please deliver resume to 306 W. 3rd Street, Big Spring, TX 79720 or Fax to 432-267-3809.

**IMMEDIATE OPENINGS** for Roustabout Helpers, Pushers & Filled Drivers with CDL License. Apply at Rusty's Oilfield Service in Stanton. 1 Mile West of Stanton on North Service Road of 1-20 Monday thru Friday 8-5. (432)756-2821.

**Help Wanted**

**DRIVERS WANTED**

Find out why our Average Length of Driver Employment is 9 years. Reagent Chemical, a Family Owned Company dedicated to providing great service to our customers and taking care of our employees, is currently hiring Professional Drivers in West Texas. Requirements include Class A CDL with tank and hazmat endorsements. Minimum of 2 years driving or 1 year tanker experience. Paid weekly by Check or Direct Deposit. Benefits include Family Health & Dental Insurance with no premium contribution by the employee. 401K with company match plus profit sharing. Life insurance and Long Term Disability is available thru Group Coverage. 10 Days Vacation starting First Year plus 10 Paid Holidays. Uniforms provided. Call 432-458-3446 or 432-661-4079.

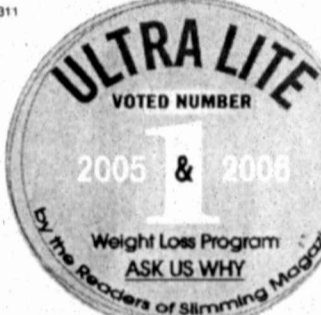
**DUNCAN DISPOSAL** - Now hiring a driver for the Coahoma area. Need at least a Class B CDL. Experience Preferred for a driver's position. Please come by the Duncan Disposal office/yard at 1104 N.W. Broadway, Coahoma, Tx - Monday-Thursday 2p-4p and on Fridays 1p-3p to apply in person. Must be able to pass mandatory DOT and corporate drug testing requirements. No phone calls please. The job includes 40+ hours weekly Mon.-Fri.; with some Sat. mornings. An hourly rate with benefits package is available. Equal Opportunity Employer.

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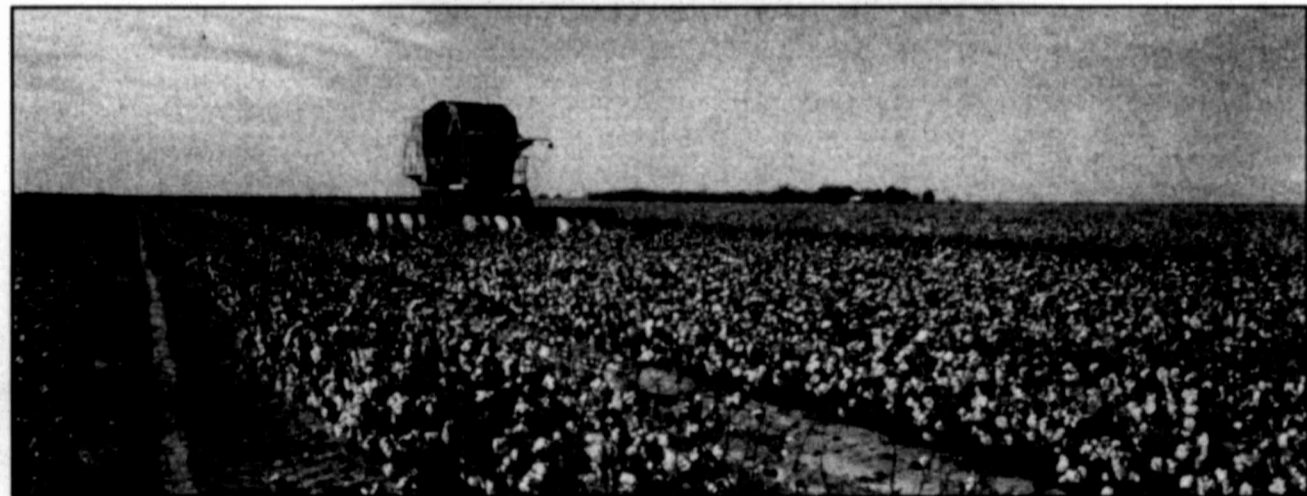
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**Evelyn Linhart wedding promise was to drop from size 24 to a size 12. She raced against time to reach her goal weight for the biggest day of her life losing 131 lbs. Her own mother-in-law didn't recognize her. She did it all with ULTRA LITE. The Professional Weight & Health Management System.**

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**OTR TRUCK Drivers Needed.** Excellent Pay and Benefits. Quality Home Time. For more information call 1-800-624-5919 ext. 116 or visit our web page at [www.taylorexpressinc.com](http://www.taylorexpressinc.com)

**Help Wanted**  
**S&S WELL Service** is looking for experienced floor hands. Apply at 309 Main St., Sparenburg Bldg. Call Steve, (432)816-1815.

**Help Wanted**  
**SHELL STAR STOP** looking for new team members. Full & Part time cashiers and assistant managers. Apply in person at any Shell Star Stop in Big Spring. Drug Free Environment.

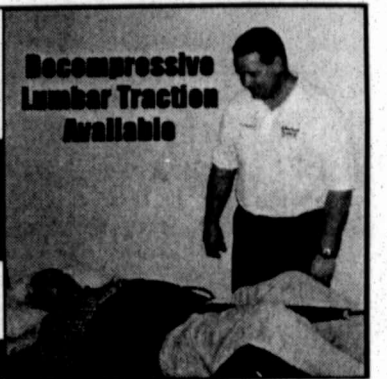
**Help Wanted**  
**THE MARTIN County Hospital** District is seeking Registered Nurses, for full-time high positions. Please contact Rance Ramsey, DON at 610 N. Saint Peter, Stanton, Texas or (432)756-3345 ext. 228.

**Help Wanted**  
**WOODFOREST NATIONAL Bank** is now hiring for branch manger, retail banker/teller positions at our Big Spring location. Please apply online at [www.woodforest.com](http://www.woodforest.com). EOE m/f/v/d

**Help Wanted**  
**PARKVIEW NURSING & Rehabilitation** now hiring for C.N.A. positions. Offer great benefits and competitive pay. Please apply in person at 3200 Parkway Rd.



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Feel Good & Stay Active  
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**1209 Gregg St. (432) 714-4555**

**Warren Chiropractic Center**

**STOP THE PAIN**  
Feel Great & Stay Healthy

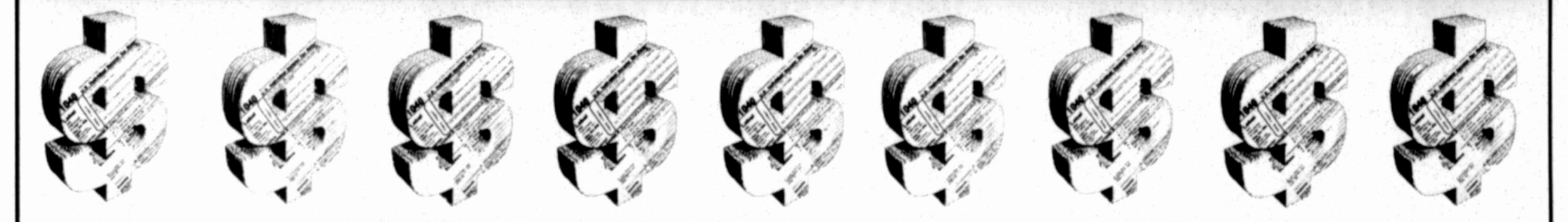
Dr. Jay Warren • Dr. Howard Hornsby • Dr. Jody Reid  
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